

May 2, 2016

Mr. Eric T. Schneiderman
New York State Attorney General
20 Broadway, New York, NY 1027

RE: Federal Investigation of CPV Valley Energy Project

Dear Mr. Schneiderman,

The residents of Orange County have long been calling for a federal investigation into the numerous irregularities in the approval process for the CPV Valley Power Plant and related Minisink Compressor Station. We applaud the launch of this probe and hope it serves to redress these irregularities as well as the overall failures of the environmental review processes which jeopardize public health, safety and welfare.

We knew from the beginning that something was very wrong when a small local town Planning Board was allowed to assume lead agency status for the environmental review of the \$900 million CPV project. An undertaking of this magnitude could adversely impact dozens of townships, hundreds of thousands of residents, resources of statewide significance and exacerbate global warming. During the lengthy approval process, numerous substantive issues were systematically and repeatedly ignored under the watch of local, county and state elected officials as well as regulatory agencies who are responsible to protect public health, safety and our environment.

We ask you to independently review and examine the SEQR process that took place regarding the CPV project in the Town of Wawayanda in Orange County, N.Y. One of the most egregious actions was when four consultants hired by the Planning Board were fired shortly after complaining about the premature issuance of the DEIS as a “favor” to CPV, calling it “incomplete”, and recommending a Supplemental EIS to remedy the situation. This is but one of many anomalies that took place throughout the entire questionable process. There is also doubt as to whether they currently have a valid site plan.

Since last year Protect Orange County’s citizen [letter writing campaign](#) has implored Governor Cuomo to suspend the permits for this ill-conceived project and launch his own investigation into the matter. **While the announcement that his office has now suspended regulatory matters with CPV is welcome news, all permits related to this project, save one, have already been issued and construction is underway.** Indeed, much damage has already been done; historic sites, protected farmland, wetlands, and endangered species habitat have been recklessly destroyed. The human costs to the community already living with what we believe is a related project, the Minisink Compressor Station, is even more alarming.

We are most bewildered why the project was allowed to start construction when the company has not yet received a final state and federal permit for its lateral pipeline. We remind you that the entire project is in a Critical Environmental Area (CEA) and urge

you to use the full power of your office to halt construction before the irreparable harm advances. For too long, only a handful of local citizens have been lone voices in a regulatory wilderness of indifference and evasion.

It is imperative that our system of checks and balances with regard to the environmental review processes be restored to safeguard not only public health and safety already compromised by this project, but also to preserve our democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Members of "Protect Orange County" and concerned citizens and organizations.

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