

May 2,, 2016

Preet Bharara
The United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of New York
One St. Andrews Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10007

RE: Federal Investigation of Competitive Power Ventures, CPV Valley Energy Plant

Dear Mr. Bharara:

You have taken on corruption in government in the great state of New York like few others in our history. As concerned and active citizens we are extremely grateful for your commitment to public interest and the law.

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. Accompanying this letter are several documents collected over the years, which we believe will be of assistance to your efforts in this matter.

We applaud the launch of this probe and hope it serves to shed light on these irregularities. The primary responsibility of all government officials and regulatory agencies must be to safeguard the public welfare. When corporate manipulation of government compromises the environmental review process for [projects with potential health and safety](#) implications, the consequences can be catastrophic. It is highly questionable that this project serves the public interest in any manner whatsoever. It is clear that numerous environmental issues were ignored. We hope this probe will serve to restore integrity to this process and public confidence in our state government.

We urge you, Mr. Bharara, to cast as wide a net as possible in order that this investigation scrutinize every approval issued and every decision maker involved at every layer of government. We hope that it will determine whether any decision makers [benefitted](#) directly or indirectly from these approvals. For too long, only a handful of local citizens have been lone voices in a regulatory wilderness of indifference and evasion.

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 officials as well as regulatory agencies who are responsible to protect public health, safety and our environment.

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 by the state and construction is well 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 extremely concerned that construction is rapidly under way for a project which may have been improperly approved in the first place. Moreover, we are perplexed as to how this was allowed when two critical permits (a state and federal) for a component of the project have still not been issued. We ask you to immediately investigate these matters and use the full power of your office to halt the harm currently underway.

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

Sincerely yours,

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

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