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Re: Comments on Cricket Valley DEIS

I am a longtime resident of the town of Dover and have many concerns regarding the siting of this facility in Dover. Chief among them are:

Air pollution

The almost certainty of altering the micro-climate here in the valley. As you know, the proposed site in Dover is in a valley portion of the Taconic mountains. A valley such as this, depending on uncontrollable atmospheric conditions and geological features can have a micro-climate imposed on it. This condition may be negatively impacted by a temperature inversion or by blocking out sunlight, both of which are possible effects of this facility. The residents of Dover exist in this micro-climate, not at the Poughkeepsie airport- which was used in the applicants study.

View shed Analysis

The conclusions as presented in the DEIS are based on an incomplete, therefore inaccurate, analysis, using a limited number of locations. A very similar, if not identical facility is located in the town of Athens NY. The views in that area are dominated by the stacks and cooling towers of that plant.

Aquifer Impact

The depletion or adverse impact on the primary aquifer in our area-and beyond- may be of critical importance-and a pivotal factor. The aforementioned Athens plant uses water from the Hudson river. Presumably there was a need for a significant quantity of cooling water. A need which simply could not be met using the local groundwater supply.

In addition, the cumulative impact must be considered, including aquifer use by the nearby Dover Knolls development, at full build-out, as well as provisions projecting long term growth in the area. All, in a worst case scenario i.e. drought conditions.

These and the many other issues and objections that have been identified and presented to you in other DEIS public comments, require further study. As a former member of the town of Dover's Planning Board I know it to be a common practice for a lead agency, when faced with anything as far reaching and complex as this, to use outside expertise to supplement the resources available from within and not to rely solely on information provided by the applicants document(s).

As the NYS Department with the primary mission "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.", and, as lead agent, DEC bears the full responsibility for performing a complete, thorough and accurate analysis of all relevant data in order to support a credible determination of the impact on the environment. Anything less falls short of DEC's mission and is a disservice to the citizens of our state, and most importantly, to those most affected, the residents of the town of Dover.

In these difficult financial times in state government, with the requisite, across the board, staff cuts affecting virtually agency and department in state, including DEC, it's possible for unforeseen issues with unintended consequences to "slip through" or for data to be misinterpreted. Given the importance of this project and the need to ensure the complete and proper protection of our environment along with the long term health and safety of Dover's residents, the need to supplement your department's team with whatever outside expertise is needed, is a given.

I believe you have the authority to direct the applicant to fund this independent analysis through its escrow account so there should be no cost to the taxpayer.

Cordially,

John C. Fila