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Mr. Stephen M. Tomasik, Project Manager
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Permits
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RE: Cricket Valley Energy DEIS comments
Cricket Valley Energy proposed site Route 22- Town of Dover, NY

Dear Mr. Tomasik:

I, along with my husband, two daughters and mother-in-law, have been a resident and taxpayer of Wingdale for the past 17 years. We chose to relocate here from Mt. Kisco NY lured by the seeming purity of a rural life in an agricultural community. It turns out rural life has been home to such places as the Mica Plant, Rasco, the Iroquois Pipeline and the like, not to mention Nuclear Lake one town away. Below are my comments, concerns and questions regarding Advanced Power's proposed Cricket Valley Energy 1,000 mw, combined cycle gas fired power plant:

1. AIR

According to the American Lung Association Dutchess County maintains a failing grade for air quality over the past three years, with a one point increase in ozone from last year. The studies of the Cary Institute in Millbrook, NY, state that over all NOx and VOC's have decreased since 1988. This is good news! However particulates have remained the

same, this is NOT good! This most likely is due to our frequent air inversions being located in a narrow valley. CVE specialist are using data acquired from Poughkeepsie which is good, as we need accumulative data of emissions carried east by prevailing winds, Cary Institute information is also helpful, but not local enough, to be a thorough collection of facts regarding our own towns air quality. I maintain that we must have data collected here, best locations being at our high school and elementary schools as it has been stated that the further away emissions travel the more hazardous they become as they combine with other particulates. We should also be concerned with data regarding surrounding townships, as our air is also their air. As for CVE'S plans to commence construction 2012, I don't believe we will have acquired sufficient data, if they plan to start in the early part of the year. I do not contest that the very congenial CVE team has developed an impressive "state of the art" facility, and I appreciate their open dialogue, and transparency as well as the thoughtfully carried out plan for the proposed site and the development of the facility. However, we need to take a responsible, redundant, critical approach to a project of this magnitude. Methane will inevitably be released along with NOx and VOC's in an area where ground level ozone is already a problem. I am concerned about the issue of carbon capture and insufficient usable technology. We surly should have a low to no impact means for this capture as we create these new burning plants. The talk of carbon capture by means of pumping emissions into our earth is absurd, how is this not a process that stands to contaminate soil and water? When the Federal Government seeks to retrofit gas fired plants with this technology in the future are we up against another environmental dilemma in Dover? For a world that speaks of global warming and the need to cease emissions by 2050 it does seem we are jumping from the fire into the frying pan. I have requested that my Town Board seeks an Independent (of CVE) specialist to analyze the findings of the DEIS. We need to be ever so careful in an approach to possible permitting. In the event that we find all data to be supportive of permitting the CVE power plant, we might consider putting warning signs for public entering our valley much like those on cigarette boxes, with proposed images of people ill from exposure to first hand and second hand smoke, after all natural gas is as

natural as 100% natural additive free tobacco. What course of timely and remedial action will we be able to take in the event anyone suffers declined health as a result of emissions. PLEASE, take into deep consideration the health of our environment and all that live within it, particularly “our children”

2. WATER

While CVE states that they will not be releasing contaminated water back into the environment do the emissions of the facility not create pollution to our air which in turn contaminate ground water and ridge waters that inevitably return to our water supply? I think it would be best to have continual monitoring of the aquifer and nearby residential wells in conjunction with random testing of wells throughout Dover in the event that permitting is granted, performed by experts of the Town Boards choice, at the expense of CVE. I am concerned about future diminished water supply from being over drawn particularly in times of drought. How does drawing from below bedrock not affect main aquifer? Perhaps I am ignorant but if water volume is removed below, will the water above not seep to fill that void? I feel this concern would be best mitigated by mandating that CVE provides adequate storage tanks on site, purchases and transports the majority of water necessary for operations thereby generating business and employment, and sparing our aquifer for life sustaining purposes (Perhaps they might purchase seawater from our rising seas that are said to be due to global warming, from fossil fuel burning emissions. Then they could employ more people to desalinate the water, and perhaps utilize the salt in the event there is increased need of de-icing the roads when heat generated by the facility causes vapors that could potentially create fog and ice on nearby roads. They might also consider permanent fog lights along Route 22 and Cricket Hill in the event that fog is a problem in the cold months.

3. WETLANDS

Will there be an ongoing disruption of habitat in the wetland and do we stand to further contaminate it? As such facilities as The Mica Plant, waste recycling and Rasco have

done in the in the past. There seem to be quite a number of contaminating businesses located here in Dover

4. NOISE

I am concerned for those of our residents who live near the facility in regards to disturbance from noise during the construction phase and during operational period. As nuisance from noise can create agitation and sleep deprivation, a very serious problem and being in a valley will exacerbate that problem. CVE has asked for a variance to be allowed to exceed 60 db toward railroad.

5.RAILROAD

I am concerned about the potential for derailment near the facility however unlikely it may be and the use of 19% aqueous ammonia. I am also concerned about the safety of passengers on Metro North in the event of a catastrophic explosion, which CVE states would not be severe and is unlikely due to the cautious measures they take. One must always assume technological and human error can occur, for instance Three Mile Island, in it's time a "state of the art" facility with highly skilled employees, an excellent example of human error.

6. EMPLOYMENT

A total of 30 permanent highly skilled jobs with a goal of taking coal burning power plants of line, and the employees along with it. JOB CREATION? Really?

Up to 780 temporary jobs over the coarse of three years, (many of which will come from Dutchess county) with Dover bearing the brunt, (many of which)speaks about County not Dover. Where will the other percentage come from? And how fortunate that they will not have to live here when the product of their employment is complete. What about those who do not stand to profit by means of employment or bid winning? Again does ANY financial gain make jeopardizing health acceptable?

7. EXPLOSION

I am deeply concerned about the possibility of explosion and fire, resulting in possible implosions of windows of nearby residences, train and vehicles passing by, particularly school buses. I am concerned about the resulting structural integrity of CVE, local residences, their water wells and the Iroquois Pipeline. What will the air and water quality issues and health risk assessments be as a result of explosion and fire? I imagine those emissions would be quite severe, particularly with schools and residences, aquifer and wetlands so close in proximity. Despite Advanced Power upholding that such events are unlikely or would be very mild in nature, one must realize (again) that technological and human error DO occur even in the best of the best. At one time Three Mile Island, and Indian Point were “state of the art”

8. FIRE DEPT.

I don't believe our (volunteer) Fire Department will have the capacity to respond to a catastrophic event at the plant in a time frame necessary. CVE states that they will be working closely with our local Fire Dept. Does this mean they will furnish the Departments with equipment, training and (PAID) manpower, in order to effect quick response and increased safety of our firemen and those they stand to protect? A volunteer based fire department is not going to cut it! they need full time paid firemen that CVE should be paying for as well as increasing their capacity by means of training and equipment.

9. PROPERTY VALUES

With Dover Knolls being a much needed opportunity for the growth of Dover, what negative impact would a power plant have on Dover Knolls ability to sell properties, ranging from low income to high end at the prices necessary to meet their required profit? What study has been done to gather data regarding impact to property values be it residential or commercial. Most of us cannot afford to lose any more value in an already depressed real estate market. And many of us have invested great amounts of money into our real estate that we may not see the return on. According to the study, *The Effect of*

Power Plants on Local Housing Values and Rents by Lucas W. Davis* there may be substantial impact.

10. FUTURE ISSUE

What is the likelihood of new pipelines being laid for CVE to connect to gas from the Marcellus Shale in the future, and the demand for hydro-fracking. Despite the statement that this particular project itself is “not hydro-fracking” wouldn’t it be fair to say that gas fired power plants = need for natural gas=future need for hydro-fracking? And what about the issue of cabling? The Benjamin Company plans to eventually utilize gas for their development do they require a power plant in order to connect to the pipeline? And if Benjamin companies do access natural gas from Iroquois what impact will that connection have on out town.

11. PUBLIC MONIES

Will CVE obtain and utilize Federal and State monies? And if so, wouldn’t those public monies be best spent, helping taxpayers to update their homes and businesses with true green energy production such as Solar and or wind turbines as with global warming being a main concern we might consider deeply that fossil fuel energy of any kind needs to cease, and non-emission producing renewable alternatives are the only hope for a future and the well being of all life.

12. BENEFIT

The greatest beneficiary is Advanced Powers, then, whoever is the owner of the facility there after, Dover is very last on that list. Will our schools stand to lose any state funds as a result of receiving payoffs, or contributions from CVE? Some residents of Dover are under the assumption that their property and school taxes will be lowered as a result of CVE, is that so? And is the financial payoff or gain a wise trade for accepting declined health of our environment and all that live within it? I would rather pay my taxes and not pollute the environment. Some believe those of us with concerns do not like progress, On my list of hopes for progress in this town, never was a power plant one of them. Is

revenue generation truly progress when ozone producing smog, and water contamination or depletion is the price? Since when has anyone ever needed to receive a payoff to accept something truly worthwhile? With the question of need on the table, and the reports that state even without Indian Point we already have sufficient power production, a bargain is no bargain if you don't need it.

13. LOCATION

As for location I am certain it is ideal for the needs of Advanced Power's Cricket Valley Energy project. However, we need to prove that it is a wise location with regard to being in a stagnant valley, within proximity to Schools, residential property, aquifer, wetlands, and railroad.

I want to Thank you for granting an extension for the submission of written commentary regarding the DEIS and for taking the time to read and address our concerns. I remain hopeful that a win -win situation may be achieved, as much has been invested in regards to this project.

Sincerely,
Tamara C. Wade