COUNTY OF ULSTER
PO BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402

Office of the Comptroller
(845) 340-3525
(845) 340-3697-Fax

Elliott Auerbach
Comptroller

Joseph Eriole, Esq.
Deputy Comptroller

Via email (secretary@dps.ny.gov)

March 21, 2013

New York State Public Service Commission
Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

RE: Case Number 12-M-0192 Joint Petition of Fortis Inc et al.
and CH Energy Group, Inc. et al.

Chairman Brown and Commissioners Acampora, Sayre, Harris and Larocca:

I appreciate all of the hard work and due diligence you have invested in the proposal between Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corp. and the Canadian utility company, FORTIS, INC.   A merger of this stature has considerable community impact that will resonate for decades with both the residential consumer and the larger commercial and industrial user.

Your Commission, as of late, has come under criticism by the media, elected officials and the general public for not allowing an adequate opportunity for dialogue to address a myriad of concerns that have been raised. It appears that a hasty decision, regardless of the outcome, will taint both the fine work of the Commission and the sale of the assets.

You have a wonderful opportunity to ensure that the public interest is being met by providing an additional ninety (90) days for the public comment period. I am sure that you will agree that this extension will allow all interested parties and chance to have their concerns answered.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to serving the best interest of the residents of New York State.

Respectfully,

Elliott Auerbach

Elliott Auerbach
Ulster County Comptroller

The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people, to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound.