

MICHAEL D. DIEDERICH, JR.

Attorney at Law
2 Sherwood Farms Court
Stony Point, New York 10980
(914) 942-0795
(914) 942-0796 (Fax)
email: attorney@ucs.net

VIA FACSIMILE

518-474-5026 (fax)

July 27, 1999

NYS Department of Public Service
Board of Electric Generation Siting and the Environment
Attention: Fred Ulrish
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Re: Torne Valley Power Plant Proposals -- Public Comment
Case Nos. 98-F-1885; 98-F-1968

Dear Department of Public Service:

As a resident of the Town of Stony Point, I wish to submit the following comments regarding the Torne Valley power plant proposals:

1. Over-consumption and Endangerment of Water Resources

I am concerned that the placement of one or more power plants in the Torne Valley may significantly impair local water resources. First, power plant water consumption may strain the Ramapo aquifer, particularly during cycles of drought. Second, depletion of water from the Ramapo aquifer may hasten the premature development of Ambrey Pond (located in Stony Point) as a source of public water supply.

2. Economic Dislocations and Negative Local Impacts

I am also concerned that installing new power generation capacity in Ramapo will adversely impact North Rockland and Stony Point residents. First, allowing new power plants in the Torne Valley, with the advantages of state-of-the-art technology and with the benefit of the large public water supply (corporately consumed at the expense of the local populace), will significantly impair the economic competitiveness of North Rockland's older electric generating facilities. Second, to the extent that new cut-throat competition devalues North Rockland's power-generating facilities, the local real property tax base will be greatly burdened. Local residents should not be subjected to a significant increase in their real property tax bill so that their utility bill might be reduced a scant few cents, if at all.

Third, the above economic impact will be aggravated during times of reduced electricity demand, such as during an economic downturn, and oil shortage or embargo, a significant drought (e.g., one caused by climate change), or other unforeseen circumstances. With this view toward the future, why should private power firms be accorded equal or greater rights to the natural resource of the local water supply than

July 27, 1999

local citizens -- essentially diluting the rights of local citizens to their present water supplies?

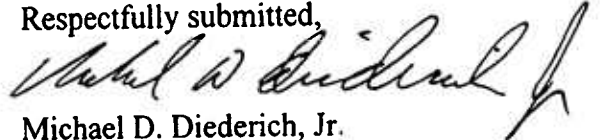
3. Energy Conservation Policies & Over-consumption of Resources

The installation of significant new centralized power-generation capacity runs contrary to what should be state and regional policies of energy efficiency, demand-side management, de-centralized power generation (e.g., residential solar) and a generally more "environmentally-friendly" concept of energy use. The profligate use of electricity in the present "times of plenty" may not adequately address the possibility of limitations on consumption which Americans may face in the future. Natural resources, after all, are finite.

4. Conclusion

The Torme Valley power plant applications require the closest scrutiny, both environmental and socio-economic. I respectfully request your close review of the above issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Diederich, Jr.

cc:

Betty Hedges, President
Rockland County Conservation Assn
P.O. Box 213
Pomona, NY 10970

FEDERAL
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
OSEC-FILED

1997 AUG -4 AM 11: 51