



Hon. Jeffrey Cohen
Acting Secretary
Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Acting Secretary Cohen:

Attached for filing with the Commission is the petition of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation ("Central Hudson"), pursuant to Section 68 of the Public Service Law, for Commission approval for the exercise of gas franchises in the Town and Village of Athens, Greene County, New York. The petition is supported by Exhibits A through O, annexed to the petition.

Among those exhibits are letters in support of the petition from the Town of Athens, the Village of Athens, the Chairman of the Greene County legislature, the Greene County IDA and Peckham Industries.

In addition, a motion for expedited consideration through a hearing on the filing without oral testimony is also attached. Central Hudson respectfully submits that the review of Phase 1 of the application should be expedited to the fullest extent possible. The petition shows that the Commission's 1989 Gas Expansion Policy will be met without any customer surcharges. The major known customer, Peckham Industries, strongly supports

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prompt construction of the proposed facilities. The expansion will be substantially installed along the margins of already disturbed roads and no material environmental impacts have been identified in the Full EAF that is included as an exhibit.

Copies of the petition and related materials are being served upon the Town of Athens and the Village of Athens.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Mosher
VP - Regulatory Affairs

cc w/all attachments:

Hon. Lee Palmateer
Town Supervisor
Town of Athens
2 First Street
Athens, NY 12015

Hon. Christian F. Pfister
Mayor of the Village of Athens
2 First Street
Athens, NY 12015