



**Southern Tier West**  
Regional Planning & Development Board

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2013 JUN 19 AM 8: 58

*Robert Keis, Chairman*  
*Richard T. Zink, Executive Director*

June 13, 2013

Chairman Garry A. Brown &  
Acting Secretary Jeffrey Cohen  
NYS Public Service Commission  
Agency Bldg. 3, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

**RE: Case # 12-E-0577**  
**NRG Facility, Dunkirk, New York (Chautauqua County)**

Dear Chairman Brown and Acting Secretary Cohen:

It is our understanding that the PSC will be making a decision in the near future regarding whether repowering the NRG Dunkirk plant will be allowed. I am writing to encourage you to support and approve the NRG's repowering project, as it is extremely critical to southwestern New York's future.

We think the PSC's analysis should take into consideration a broader economic benefits analysis as a significant factor in its final determination.

Here are some quick facts of this project:

The repowered NRG Dunkirk plant will:

- Generate up to 440 MW, enough to power 350,000 homes.
- Reduce emissions up to 99% on an annual basis.
- Create up to 500 jobs during construction.
- Help maintain the reliability of the Western NY electrical system.
- Promote development of renewable (wind and solar power).

Repowering the Dunkirk plant will:

- Preserve local jobs at the site in the near-term.
- Provide up to 500 jobs during the 36-month construction cycle, and retain more than two dozen long-term jobs after the plant is commissioned.
- Ensure a stable and predictable tax base in Chautauqua County and Dunkirk for years to come.

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- Generate dramatically cleaner energy and improve air quality in Western New York by significantly reducing all major emissions, including:
  - Mercury – reduced by 100%
  - Sulfur Dioxide – reduced by 99%
  - -Nitrogen Oxides – reduced by 98%
  - -Particulates – reduced by 83%
  - -Greenhouse gases – reduced by 73%
- Improve reliability by alleviating the need for many costly transmission upgrades and creating a best-in-class electricity generation resource for Western NY.
- Increase efficiency by using state-of-the art combined-cycle units that can ramp up quickly and “load follow” as demand rises and falls on the system.
- Provide support for other renewable generation assets, including especially wind power in Western New York. The intermittent nature of wind resources can be a challenge for the Western New York grid, and the repowered Dunkirk plant will help balance the variability of wind resources for grid operators.

As an organization serving Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties, whose mission is to promote community and economic development in southwestern New York, we are keenly aware of the crucial role that the NRG facility plays in the City of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, and our entire three county southwestern New York region, from its fiscal impact (tax revenues) on municipal operations, to its economic impact on generating electricity used by our region’s business community and residents, and as a foundation business in our larger community. The loss of the plant would create a significant economic blow from which we may not be able to recover, and the repowering of the plant would have the many positive benefits listed above.

Our region’s communities are very supportive of the Dunkirk power plant upgrades and wish to have a repowered plant in the community. The repowering project also has the support of Senator Cathy Young. I also am writing Governor Cuomo to express my support in this regard.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further. I hope that we can count on your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



RICHARD T. ZINK  
Executive Director