

Dear NY Public Service Commission,

I strongly oppose the proposed Fortis/Central Hudson Merger, Case 12-M-0192 & suggest that the NY Public Service Commission reject the Merger based on the following points:

Fortis, Inc. has a very bad track record in other countries & places that unfortunately had to deal with the company as their energy provider. In Belize, Central America, the government had to force

Fortis out because of their outrageous disregard for the welfare of the community. Residents will be at

the mercy of a financial corporation with a disastrous environmental record. Fortis built the Chalillo

Dam in Belize, destroying precious habitat and raising costs to ratepayers. Fortis polluted their water with a damn & lied to the population about the safety of that damn. They falsified records & information

in order to push through their agenda to profit at great expense of the the people. Information about this

is well known & documented. Fortis has a terrible record of noncompliance with government regulations for safety

& welfare of the community. They have purposely suppressed information & lied to government officials,

Judicial authorities & regulators in countries where they are operating such as Belize & British Columbia.

Fortis always hikes the rates, after promising that they will not do so. It is their stated intention to rely on natural gas from

hydraulic-fracturing, a highly controversial & unsafe method of gas extraction. At the moment, natural gas is cheap

because of an influx of gas from fracking in the US, at great expense of our clean water, air & soil. The price

of electricity from Fortis will surely rise as gas becomes more expensive.

We, in the Hudson Valley, do not want a multi-national foreign corporation supplying us with our electrical needs &

controlling the source of our electricity. We are interested in & must become more local & use many sustainable

energy resources, such as solar, wind, hydro electric generation & other safe sources as they become available.

We are not interested in sourcing our electrical needs from fracked gas & sacrificing a clean environment in return.

At a time of devastating climate change, we need to look at energy resources that move us away from dangerous

fossil fuel extraction & towards more locally owned & operated eco-friendly utilities.

In terms of jobs & the economy, Fortis will only guarantee jobs to Central Hudson workers for two years. This is

very bad for the economy in the Central Hudson geographical area. Fortis has a lower credit rating the Central Hudson, which will raise the cost of borrowing for the utility & therefore the electricity rates will go up for us living in the Central Hudson area. New York risks losing local jobs. In a similar case, when Iberdrola, SA, bought Rochester Gas & Electric in 2008, they cut the workforce by more than 200 people & replaced them with outside contractors.

The proposed takeover does nothing to make Fortis improve the power grid, protect us from the effects of storms like Irene, Lee & Sandy or better utilize clean energy sources. Fortis may be even able to override New York State regulations through the use of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

Overall, the proposed merger is a very bad idea. The only people who stand to gain from this merger are the top CEO's of Central Hudson & Fortis so why are we considering it? The propaganda coming from Fortis & Central Hudson about the merits of this merger are staggering. We must review this carefully & not make any hasty decisions that could prove disastrous for our communities. The so-called community benefits are minuscule compared to what the top executives at CH Energy will walk away with (reportedly \$8.7 million for CH Energy Group CEO Steven Lant and \$5.9 million for Executive Vice President James Laurito). Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Democrat of Kingston said at the public hearing that "Fortis and Central Hudson shareholders are about to get away with stealing money from the ratepayers of this community,"

. Many other Government representatives have also spoken out against this merger for good reason. These elected officials are protecting the interests of their constituents, not the money interests of the corporations that stand to profit at the expense of the people & the environment. Please reject the proposed merger between Central Hudson & Fortis.

There is no evidence that this merger will benefit the people of the Hudson Valley in any way. On the contrary, there is much evidence to suggest that we will be much worse off if we allow Fortis to takeover our electric utility company. I urge you to protect the people of the Hudson Valley area & reject this proposal.

Thank you,
Toby E F Stover

81 Clove Valley Road
High Falls, NY 12440