

RUSH TOWN BOARD MEETING JANUARY 14, 2015

RESOLUTION #6-2015

Councilperson Woolaver moved to support the opposition of the Seneca Gas Project as follows:

SENECA GAS PROJECT

WHEREAS, a proposal is before the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to build a liquified petroleum gas (LPG) storage and distribution hub for the entire northeastern United States in a series of depleted salt caverns just north of Watkins Glen on the western shore of Seneca Lake;

WHEREAS, the proposed facility would store millions of barrels of pressurized LPG in unlined, irregular salt caverns within a fault-ridden brine field with a documented history of geological instability (including a 400,000-ton roof collapse in the cavern proposed for methane storage and a major rock fault intersecting the well proposed for LPG storage);

WHEREAS, storage of LPG (and methane) in salt-caverns is historically the riskiest means of gas storage (though the cheapest option for the industry) and has led to explosions, large-scale evacuations, and several catastrophic collapses and giant sink holes (the latter exemplified by the ongoing catastrophe in Louisiana's Bayou Corne);

WHEREAS, the proposed facility would generate expansive transportation infrastructure and activity in connection with the storage, including daily rail transport of highly explosive materials over an 80-year-old spindly trestle spanning Watkins Glen gorge (one of New York State's top ten tourist destinations), as well as possible extensive heavy-truck traffic in the future;

WHEREAS, the proposed facility includes a 60-foot tall flaring stack, several 700-horsepower diesel-powered compressors, and two brine ponds with a combined capacity of roughly 60 million gallons of super-saturated brine (many times saltier than sea water)—and all of this in an area renowned for its natural beauty, tourism, agriculture, and wine-making;

WHEREAS, Seneca Lake supplies drinking water to over 100,000 people and is one of the most important natural resources in the region;

WHEREAS, this project poses unacceptable risks of pollution to Seneca Lake and the surrounding land and air, and of uncontrollable fires and explosions in the event of an accident; and will industrialize the region and thereby damage the long-standing

and growing agriculture, wine, and tourist industries that form the economic backbone of the region;

WHEREAS, both Rush and the Seneca Lake watershed are part of the same interdependent ecological system known as the Great Lakes Basin, and that system is linked in such a way that what happens in one part can have an adverse impact on other parts;

WHEREAS, one of the greatest assets of living in this region is access to the natural beauty of the Finger Lakes; and WHEREAS, many of us in Rush take advantage of the recreational opportunities at or around Seneca Lake, and enjoy the products of the region's wineries and agriculture;

WHEREAS, the regional economy is related to Rush's economic well-being, and a boom-and-bust industry (particularly one that is so thoroughly dominated by out-of-state corporations) that displaces more sustainable economic enterprises is bad for the region and our town;

And WHEREAS, promoting the build-out of fossil-fuel infrastructure in New York State only delays the necessary work (and profound economic, environmental, and health benefits) of building a sustainable energy system;

THEREFORE, it is resolved that the Rush Town Board is in opposition to this project, and urges the Department of Environmental Conservation and other agencies having jurisdiction over it to deny approval and to protect the people and environment of New York State from the risks and adverse effects it would bring. Councilperson Frank seconded the motion.

Roll:

Councilperson Woolaver	aye
Councilperson Steiner	aye
Councilperson Frank	aye
Councilperson McCarthy	aye
Supervisor Anderson	aye carried.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
MONROE COUNTY)ss.:
TOWN OF RUSH)

TOWN CLERK CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that I, Pamela J. Bucci, Town Clerk of the Town of Rush in the said County of Monroe, have compared the above copy of Resolution #6-2015 from Rush Town Board Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2015 with the original now on file in this office, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original and the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Town this 15th day of January, 2015.



Pamela J. Bucci

Pamela J. Bucci
Town Clerk of the Town of Rush
Monroe County, New York