

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN BOARD IN OPPOSITION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN UNDERGROUND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS STORAGE FACILITY

WHEREAS, Crestwood Midstream Partners LP (formerly known as Inergy Midstream, L.P.) submitted an application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) to construct and operate an underground Liquid Petroleum Gas (“LPG”) storage and transportation hub at the former US Salt property approximately three miles north of Watkins Glen, NY; and

WHEREAS, the DEC, has been Lead Agency for the project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act since February 2010; and

WHEREAS, the LPG facility would have the ability to store up to 2.1 million barrels of LPG in underground salt caverns created by former U.S. Salt’s mining activities; and

WHEREAS, in summary of previous comments documented in annual reporting from the former Inergy Midstream company, the potential to expand the facility in the future beyond what is currently being proposed is a real possibility; and

WHEREAS, current proposals include the construction of a rail facility capable of processing 32 railcars per day, a truck facility capable of handling 45 transports per day, and several brine ponds with the capacity to store almost 1.2 million barrels of brine; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen geographic center is located at the intersection of two single lane State highways, a juncture which currently sees problematic high load truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, studies produced to evaluate risk, environmental impact, safety concerns, and integrity of structural geology by those who support or oppose the project provide opposing points of view; and

WHEREAS, the Fingerlakes Region, including Seneca Lake, is home to New York’s largest and, country’s second largest wine-producing trade, a source of commerce and economic benefit to the area; and

WHEREAS, the Fingerlakes Region, including Seneca Lake, is an area known for its natural and scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, Seneca Lake is the source of drinking water for over 100,000 people of which, the Village of Watkins Glen draws its supply just south of the proposed Project ; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen and the surrounding area has become a major tourist destination sought after for its fishing, hiking, boating, camping, and the natural wonder that is the Watkins Glen State Park, home to 19 waterfalls, gorges; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen has made great strides in developing partnerships with the community to help expand tourism and improve growth throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen will partner with the Village of Montour falls in a new jointly-owned wastewater treatment plant situated at the geographic location between both communities, to help save in operating costs, consolidate municipal operations, and to provide new development opportunities at the location of both former treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, significant financial investment in the area from local, State, and Federal agencies have been made in recognition of the vital importance that tourism has on the area through programs such as,

- Project Seneca, a multi-million dollar state and federally supported investment to help revitalize the shores of Seneca Lake.
- The 2011-2013 NY Main Street Grant program which provided \$500,000 for Village of Watkins Glen commercial district building front improvements,
- The 2012-2014 RARP Program which provided \$150,000 for Village of Watkins Glen commercial district exterior lighting improvements, general building beautification needs, and main street apartment renovations,
- Transportation grants for gateway improvement studies and eco-tourism concepts to enhance Village entrance ways; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen, recently adopted a comprehensive plan which identifies tourism as the most vital economic benefit to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen and surrounding area has been called a “diamond in the rough” by winery interests looking to invest in the area, stating that the Crestwood project is contrary to that goal; and

WHEREAS, the Crestwood project has polarized the region with valid concerns of rampant industrialization, negative environmental impacts, safety risks, negative impacts to infrastructure and, the potential to negatively affect the economic livelihood of a region dependent on tourism; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Village constituents who have approached the Village of Watkins Glen Board have spoken out against said project for reasons stated above; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, In keeping with the majority opinion of the local Village community, the Village of Watkins Glen Board respectfully requests that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation withhold approval of any plan for mass storage of LPG adjacent to or under Seneca Lake and exercise its power in identifying a more appropriate location for any such storage site.