

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SHERMAN CONSERVATION COMMISSION OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF THE GAS-FIRED CRICKET VALLEY ENERGY CENTER POWER PLANT AND CALLING UPON NEW YORK GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO, CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY, AND OTHER STATE LEADERS TO TAKE ACTION TO SUSPEND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Cricket Valley Energy Center (CVE) is an 1100 Megawatt gas-fired power plant with three exhaust stacks presently under construction in Dover, New York, approximately three miles from the Connecticut state line and directly upwind of the Town of Sherman [1]; and

WHEREAS, if put into operation, CVE will produce pollutants harmful to human health to which residents of Connecticut will be primarily exposed, including but not limited to 570 tons per year of carbon monoxide, 280 tons per year of nitrogen oxides, 120 tons per year of volatile organic compounds, and 190 tons per year of particulate matter [2]; and

WHEREAS, the state of New York has filed suit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency regarding power plant emissions that enter New York from neighboring states, yet approved construction of CVE just three miles from its eastern border with prevailing winds that carry emissions directly into Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, if put into operation, CVE will pump 3.6 Million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a potent greenhouse gas and major driver of climate change, into the atmosphere annually [2]; and

WHEREAS, methane (CH₄) has a global warming potential 86 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timeframe; thus if CVE is put into operation, the systemic leakage of unburned methane from well-head to point of combustion will have *additional* adverse impact, increasing total greenhouse gas emissions measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) by a factor of two or more compared to combustion alone [3]; and

WHEREAS, if the Social Cost of Carbon is evaluated using a fixed value of \$36 per ton of carbon dioxide, CVE would burden society with over \$5 billion in adverse climate impacts over its lifetime, and twice this amount or more if methane is considered [4]; and

WHEREAS, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced bold climate goals for the state of New York, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050 [5]; and

WHEREAS, if put into operation, CVE will continue running for decades, undermining the necessary development of renewable energy, perpetuating long-term dependency on fossil fuels, and exacerbating climate change to the detriment of the planet and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the state of New York approved development of CVE in 2012 without making an adequate effort to engage Connecticut residents from neighboring towns in the review and permitting process; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017 both Connecticut and New York became founding members of the United State Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of states affirming their commitment to uphold objectives of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, said actions providing impetus to reconsider prior flawed decisions affecting energy and chart a better course for the future [6]; and

WHEREAS, thousands of peer-reviewed study reports now indicate that combustion emissions similar to those that will be released from the CVE power plant are associated with human and animal mortality rate increases with corresponding neurological and developmental effects on mice, rats and rabbits documented during tightly controlled lab experiments [7];

NOW THEREFORE BE THE FOLLOWING RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SHERMAN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

1. In the interest of protecting public health and the environment shared by people of Connecticut, New York and the world, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Sherman hereby opposes construction of the 1100 Megawatt CVE fossil fuel power plant in Dover, New York.
2. The Conservation Commission of the Town of Sherman urges Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, his successor, the Attorney General, and state agencies of Connecticut to take all legal action necessary to halt construction of CVE.
3. Consistent with New York greenhouse gas reduction goals and purposes of the United States Climate Alliance, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Sherman urges New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and state agencies of New York to rescind permits for CVE, and to instead pursue renewable, carbon-free, conservation and efficiency alternatives sufficient to meet the needs of New Yorkers while avoiding development of additional fossil fuel power and reducing fossil fuel consumption.
4. Consistent with attention given to the health of New Yorkers impacted by emissions from neighboring states, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Sherman calls upon the state of New York to give equal consideration to the impact of emissions generated within New York on its neighbors, and to include all affected communities in the review of proposed projects and decision-making processes that potentially impact their health.
5. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Governor of Connecticut, Governor of New York, Attorneys General of Connecticut and New York, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Commissioner of the New York Public Service Commission.

Sources

- 1) See online information at <http://www.cricketvalley.com/>
- 2) Appendix 4-B: Emissions Information at http://townofdoverny.us/uploads/Vol1_25_Appendix%204-B.pdf
- 3) 5th Assessment Report of Working Group 1 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Table 8.7 page 714, available at: http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_ALL_FINAL.pdf
- 4) Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866, Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, United States Government. Available at https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/inforeg/scc_tsd_final_clean_8_26_16.pdf
- 5) See the 2015 New York State Energy Plan at <http://energyplan.ny.gov/-/media/nysenergyplan/2015-state-energy-plan.pdf>
- 6) See web site at <https://www.usclimatealliance.org/governors-1/>
- 7) See reports and statements at
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