

TownOfUlsterCitizens.org

A non-partisan, citizen run organization focused on increasing citizen engagement and creating a better Town of Ulster, NY.

24 April 2018

James E. Quigley 3rd, Supervisor
Town of Ulster Town Hall
1 Town Hall Drive
Lake Katrine, NY 12449

RE: SEQR Final Scope on Lincoln Park Grid Support Center (LPGSC)

Dear Supervisor Quigley,

Having conferred with a substantial number of our members after the Town Board's completion of the Final Scope regarding the LPGSC, we wish to go on record by expressing our deep disappointment with your document as Lead Agency in the SEQR process.

In general, your Final Scope was a weak, boilerplate document that contained the issues that should be covered in such a document, but it addressed almost none of the intelligent commentary and questions of our environmental partners (e.g., Citizens for Local Power, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Scenic Hudson and others), and almost none of the thoughtful specificity and questions provided the TownOfUlsterCitizens.org.

We cannot speak for our environmental partners, but we can clearly see that you completely disregarded their expertise of the SEQR process and environmental issues. The overriding perception among many people in our town is that your request for citizen input into the Scoping process was a fool's errand. You fulfilled your legal responsibility to invite public comment, but the public views were of little account to you. We embraced your request – in fact your command that we “do our homework” - and worked very hard, and took seriously, our role in the SEQR process. The reciprocity stopped there. In reviewing the Final Scope, it is evident that you wasted our good efforts.

The most blatant omission is in the “Alternatives” section that lists no specific alternatives whatsoever. As you know, the opportunity to suggest alternatives is one of the most potent aspects within SEQR. Citizens and environmental professionals had much to offer in this regard, but the Town Board as Lead Agency had nothing to say other than statements of obfuscation such as “alternatives will be considered.” We consider this kind of statement as a gift to the project applicant and a complete disregard to the residents of the town of Ulster – the very people whom you are sworn to serve and protect.

We are displeased by the neglectful and often dismissive style of citizen representation in the Final Scope, but many of us will continue to oppose this project proposal in the DEIS phase. There are some among us who have succumbed to discouragement and are preparing to move out of town. Seven homes in the small Lincoln Park neighborhood are currently up for sale—one privately and the rest with

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brokers. As evidenced in the Final Scope, we believe that "Community Character" does not matter to the Town Board vis-à-vis the opportunity for potential Town revenue from any source. Our neighbors fear for and are angry about compromises to personal health and a reduction of their property values. Your response is a meretricious call for a "wooded buffer around the project site" that would do nothing to prevent polluted air from affecting health or property values from diminishing.

We do not expect you to be persuaded by our challenging your expression of authority, but we remind you that the power you exercise ostensibly for the greater good does not belong to you and that the greater good is not a zero-sum game.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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CC: Town of Ulster Town Board: Joel B. Brink, Eric Kitchen, John Morrow, Rocco Secreto
Town Clerk: Suzanne Reavy
Town Planner: Alan Sorensen