

GLIDEPATH IS NO LONGER A THREAT TO OUR COMMUNITY!

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For Immediate Release

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Town Citizen Group Praises GlidePath Withdrawal of Power Plant Proposal

TownOfUlsterCitizens.org, a non-partisan, citizen-run organization was founded to increase citizen engagement in the town of Ulster and has been active for more than a year in its opposition to a proposed 20-megawatt fossil-fuel power plant. “The announcement by GlidePath to withdraw its original plan and replace it with a battery storage facility is welcome news to our town’s citizens,” according to the group’s chairperson, Laura Hartmann. Hartmann added: “this fracked-gas and diesel power plant would have doubled the Town of Ulster’s carbon footprint if the plant became operational, but their new proposal for a storage-only facility is a way to keep our local environment clean and preserve generated power which would otherwise be lost to the grid. GlidePath has considerable experience with battery-storage plants, but they had no experience with burning gas and diesel for electricity. This project is more in line with the values of Ulster County’s commitment to renewable initiatives”

Town of Ulster resident Dan Furman is a key member of the citizen group, and lives near the formerly proposed site responded to the announcement: “This is excellent news. We do want new businesses in the Town of Ulster, but we want projects that increase our quality of life, not greatly diminish it, like the fossil fuel elements of this project would have.”

Town resident Regis Obijiski, vice-chair of the citizen group, gives “credit to citizens who actively participated in NY State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) process. Much credit is also due to Town Supervisor James Quigley and the Town Board who absorbed a great deal of public criticism and turned it into wise negotiation. We are grateful for the leadership of our County Executive, Mike Hein. We appreciate the counsel and experience of our environmental partners: Catskill Mountainkeeper, Citizens Against Pilgrim Pipeline New York, Citizens for Local Power, Food & Water Watch, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., KingstonCitizens.org, Kingston Land Trust, Riverkeeper, Mid-Hudson Sierra Club, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Sustainable Hudson Valley, and Woodstock Land Conservancy.

Sue McConekey, whose home is situated 680 feet from the proposed fossil-fuel plant, said: “My neighbors and I am delighted that GlidePath listened to us about the toxicity to personal and environmental health.” Vince Guido whose home borders the southern end of the Old Flatbush Ridge expressed his relief: “I am so proud that the Town of Ulster decided to be on the cutting edge of clean energy. The 121 acres of forest are the lungs of our town; we can continue to breathe deeply. A principal aquifer, faunal life and interconnecting waters from here to the Hudson were saved.”

The SEQR law aims to protect the environment, while being of respectful business proposals. Citizen input and participation is key to the success and outcome of any SEQR process. Laura Hartmann concludes: “TownOfUlsterCitizens.org participated in the SEQR process for over a year and suggested a battery-storage facility in another part of town as a viable alternative to the fossil-fuel plant. Understanding all the details of this battery storage facility, we fully support Glidepath’s revised project proposal.”