

PROCLAMATION CALLING ON GOVERNOR CUOMO TO SUSPEND THE PROPOSED SHERIDAN HOLLOW FRACKED NATURAL GAS MICROGRID, AND ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO IDENTIFY RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVES TO POWER THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

- WHEREAS, Sheridan Hollow is a predominantly low income, people-of-color community located in downtown Albany, approximately one half mile from the New York State Capitol and other buildings that comprise the Empire State Plaza complex; and
- WHEREAS, the Empire State Plaza is currently heated and cooled using hot steam from the combustion of fracked natural gas at the Sheridan Avenue Steam Plant, a facility that was originally constructed in 1911 and has burned various fossil fuels since then, producing hazardous emissions to which the residents of Sheridan Hollow have been disproportionately exposed for over a century; and
- WHEREAS, for thirteen years the residents of Sheridan Hollow were also exposed to toxic pollutants from a garbage incineration facility, known as ANSWERS, from which severe health problems were reported, said facility having been closed by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1994; and
- WHEREAS, the New York Power Authority now proposes to construct a 16 megawatt gas-fired power plant inside the shuttered ANSWERS building, which would operate continuously as part of a combined heat and power (CHP) microgrid for the Empire State Plaza in conjunction with the existing steam plant; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed microgrid project would cause the Empire State Plaza to rely on natural gas for at least 90% of its electricity and 100% of its heating and cooling for many years to come, thereby undermining New York's stated renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed microgrid project would yield little or no improvement in efficiency, reduction in fuel consumption, or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions when properly compared to grid-based electricity from generators serving the Empire State Plaza today; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed microgrid project does not specify the use of readily available emission controls, including oxidation catalysts on exhaust stacks—a modern-day feature common at facilities that use identical equipment in other communities, including those with far less people; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed microgrid project would result in the burning of nearly 50% more fuel at facilities in Sheridan Hollow and the generation of nearly 50% more local carbon dioxide emissions, with minimal reduction in local criteria pollutants like nitrogen oxide; and

WHEREAS, instead of developing a project that is inherently dependent on fossil fuel combustion for both electricity and heat, significant improvements in efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, and elimination of criteria pollutants could be achieved with renewable alternatives, including but not limited to replacement of the existing steam-based heating and cooling system of the Empire State Plaza with geothermal ground- or water-source heat pump technology and thermal storage and/or other renewables; and

WHEREAS, the New York Power Authority has indicated that it plans to award a contract for the proposed fossil fuel microgrid project within the first quarter of 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by proclamation of the undersigned members of the Albany County Legislature:

1. The proposed Albany microgrid project perpetuates the unnecessary and disproportionate exposure of an environmental justice community to pollution, and is inconsistent with renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals of the state. As such, no contract should be awarded for the proposed project.
2. A new Request for Proposals should be issued to identify renewable alternatives for the Empire State Plaza, with a focus on heating and cooling using geothermal heat pump and thermal storage technology to eliminate or substantially reduce the need for fossil fuel combustion.
3. At the appropriate time, a full Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation on the preferred alternative.
4. A copy of this proclamation shall be delivered to Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, Gil C. Quiniones, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Power Authority, RoAnn M. Destito, Commissioner of the Office of General Services, Alica Barton, Chairman of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and Basil Seggos, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



We the undersigned Legislators of the Albany County Legislature call upon Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, Gil C. Quiniones; President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Power Authority, RoAnn M. Destito, Commissioner of the Office of General Services, Alica Barton, Chairman of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and Basil Seggos, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to suspend the proposed Sheridan Hollow fracked natural gas microgrid, and issue a Request for Proposals to identify renewable alternative to power the Empire State Plaza

<u>Morton D. Simpson</u>	<u>James C. ...</u>	<u>April ...</u>
<u>Amanda ...</u>	<u>Ben ...</u>	<u>Doug Bullock</u>
<u>Norma Chapman</u>	<u>Charles ...</u>	<u>D. ...</u>
<u>Sam ...</u>	<u>W. ...</u>	<u>Lucille McKoy ...</u>
<u>William ...</u>	<u>R. K. ...</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Boya M. ...</u>	<u>Victoria ...</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Paul ...</u>	<u>... ..</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>William ...</u>	<u>... ..</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>... ..</u>	<u>D. ...</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>... ..</u>	<u>R. ...</u>	<u>_____</u>

