ORIGINAL

March 22, 2021

Docket: P-15056: OOO

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned resident of West Shokan regarding the proposal for the Ashokan Pumped Storage Hydro facility. There are many flaws in this proposal which should give pause to its continued review.

It is being promoted as a "closed loop" system when in fact it is not since the proposal calls for an upper reservoir being added to a lower reservoir. Right from the get-go this proposal is a sham and shows that this company is on the wrong track and should think about going elsewhere. It should also be noted that the reservoir might produce methane gases which is detrimental to the environment.

Another important consideration is the Catskill Forest which is where this project is being considered. The Catskill Forest Preserve contains highly protected land and ecologic systems. The Catskill Forest Preserve was created in 1885 in Ulster County. It has important historical significance since it is the first designated nation's wilderness. It should be noted that the Catskill Forest Preserve is protected as "forever wild" by Article XIV of the New York State constitution. In order for this proposal to go forward there would have to be an amendment added to the state constitution. I can assure you that there would be vigorous opposition to any such amendment that would destroy or modify such a unique and rare natural resource!

Since pumped storage to upper the upper reservoir is subject to rapid fluctuations of water which could be problematic for both aquatic and land wildlife not to mention adding to the already troublesome effect of adding turbidity to the water which is already an issue here.

Before this project has even gotten off the ground, there are significant red flags that are being identified. Would it not be advantageous to take this project somewhere else where there would not be so much devastation to such a special historical landmark, which, once destroyed,will never be able to be replicated?

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