



Kamal Johnson
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January 28, 2025

Re: Hecate Energy Columbia County 1, LLC, Permit Application Number 24-00103

As Mayor of Hudson, NY, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Hecate's Shepherd's Run solar facility proposed for Copake, NY.

As you may be aware, the proposed siting for Shepherd's Run is on the Taghkanic Creek watershed. The Taghkanic Creek supplies 100% of the water for the City of Hudson. Concerns for the safety of your water supply led to the City of Hudson's Common Council adopting a resolution in in October 2024 entitled A Resolution In Opposition To Proposed Siting Of The Shepherd's Run Solar Project Within The Taghkanic Creek Watershed.

The Resolution urges the New York State Office of Renewable Energy (ORES) to compel Hecate to provide evidence that the construction of Shepherd's Run, and once constructed, the presence of Shepherd's Run, will not negatively impact the Taghkanic Creek Watershed, or the water quality in the City of Hudson.

The 2022 Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan, commissioned by NY State's Department of Environmental Conservation, (DEC) cites the critical role the Watershed plays in protecting abundant clean water and wildlife, and calls on the cooperation of municipalities and partners to conserve these important resources in Columbia County. Further, note that the Taghkanic Creek Watershed is specifically protected by state regulation 10 NYCRR 109.1, which states "No person, including State agencies or political subdivisions having jurisdiction, shall perform any act or grant any permit or approval which may result in the contravention of the standards for raw water quality..."

Unfortunately, we have not seen any evidence that the protection of the Taghkanic Watershed, and thus, Hudson's water supply, or compliance with 10 NYCRR 109.1, has been addressed in Hecate's application to ORES. We do not consider platitudes by the developer promising to rely on an Environmental Monitor (which Hecate appoints) to "promote avoidance of unpermitted wetland impacts" a substitute for guaranteed assurances that no harm will come to Hudson's water. We can point to examples of instances where water supplies have been negatively impacted by solar facilities and if there's even a chance that could happen to Hudson it must be seriously addressed BEFORE any permit is issued.

I therefore call on ORES to:

1. Require Hecate to meet the NYS Raw Water Standard, Part 170.4. This governs water discharged into a drinking water supply.
2. Require Hecate to provide a financial guarantee for remediation if there is an unexpected mishap, like an accident during construction, an extreme weather event, or other occurrence that impacts Hudson's water.
3. Require strict enforcement of the DEC's new Wetland Regulations which require a 100-foot setback, which remains undisturbed, around all waterways on the Shepherd's Run site.



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