



Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group

Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Atlantic Chapter
Spring 2020 | Vol. 52 | Issue 1
This newsletter will be posted to our website along with all previous newsletters.

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Chair's Corner by Lalita Malik

This is my first term on the Mid-Hudson Group ExCom and as the new Executive Committee Chair. So, how did I get here? For many years I paid the Sierra Club membership dues, bought their calendars and watched as the organization did things to protect the environment and our public lands. I paid attention to their endorsements of candidates, submitted online petitions, but did not get involved.

Then in 2016 everything changed. After Trump took office he started dismantling our National Parks—America's Greatest Treasure. He began by reducing Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, dismantling the Environment Protection Agency and withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement. All this so his cronies could make more billions from mining more fossil fuels.

As an individual it seemed as though there was nothing I could do to stop him. That's when I called the Sierra Club and asked where they needed support. I started by donating money to the Sierra Club Foundation to educate environmental lawyers of the future, support the [Wild America Campaign](#) to save our public lands, fund actions to [save the grizzlies in Yellowstone](#) and support the [30/30 campaign](#) to save 30 percent of the earth by 2030.

But that was not enough. The victories were not personal. So I decided to get involved with the Sierra Club's Mid-Hudson Group. To fight locally and smell and taste our victories. So here I am, the new ExCom chair.

I urge you to get involved in whatever way you are comfortable with. Start by voting for the Board of Directors for the Sierra Club who you think will best represent you. Write letters to the editors of publications and to your representatives asking them to vote on issues of importance to you. Step out and speak up at town board and legislative meetings. Spread the word.

Beat the greedy fossil fuel companies at their own game by doing your personal best to reduce your use of fossil fuels. The best way to stop more exploration is by reducing the demand for fossil fuels so that there is no money in it.

The 2020 elections are our opportunity to elect representatives who care about us and the environment. Your executive committee will work with our Chapter political leadership to evaluate candidates' positions on environmental issues. The process will lead, with your approval, to endorsements by the Sierra Club (for national candidates) and the Atlantic Chapter for New York State legislators. Local county, town and village endorsements will be made directly by your ExCom. Endorsements will be based not only by what they say, but also on their voting record (for incumbents). We will let you know the names of those who have been endorsed.

This coming year we plan to partner with other organizations as we work to prevent a concrete slab and steel plant from ruining the Bluestone Wild Forest/Onteora Lake area as well as stopping the reopening of the Danskammer electric plant which would run on natural gas. See Bob Heinemann's article in this newsletter.

I want to thank our Group and ExCom members for their support and confidence in entrusting me with this very important position. My predecessors Bob Heinemann and Joanne Steele have set us on a path of combating climate change and protecting our natural resources in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Together we are going to succeed due to the strong foundation they have built.

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Conservation Corner

Town of Kingston Planning Board to Discuss Bluestone Wild Forest Concrete Plant at March 16th Meeting

The Planning Board of the Town of Kingston (not the city) has announced that the proposal for a concrete and steel manufacturing facility at 850 Route 28, in the midst of the Bluestone Wild Forest, will be on the agenda for its March 16 meeting at the M. Clifford Miller Middle School, 65 Fording Place, Lake Katrine. This is not a public hearing, and no public comments will be allowed.

It is hoped, however, that a large turnout will continue to put pressure on the planning board to consider the many adverse impacts such a facility will have on nearby Onteora Lake and the surrounding wild forest which is part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Their meeting on January 22nd attracted a crowd of nearly 200, most of whom were opponents of the project. Public pressure during this past year forced the planning board to rescind its initial negative declaration for the project and require the applicant, Tom Auringer, to respond to the many public questions and comments submitted during several previous public hearings.

The planning board, however, has not yet required the applicant to submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or undergo a full State Environmental Quality (SEQ) Review. At the January 22nd meeting the applicant responded to the public comments by outlining various changes to the site plan including sound barriers and habitat assessment, all of which were contained in an addendum to his initial Environmental Assessment Form (EAF).

Although the public was not allowed to comment at the January 22nd meeting, the planning board submitted additional comments and questions through their attorney, Richard Golden; Engineering Consultant, Ryan Loucks of Crawford Engineering; and newly-appointed board member, Keith Bennett. They gave the applicant until March 16th to respond to these comments. They also stated that a public comment period would be opened at a later time.

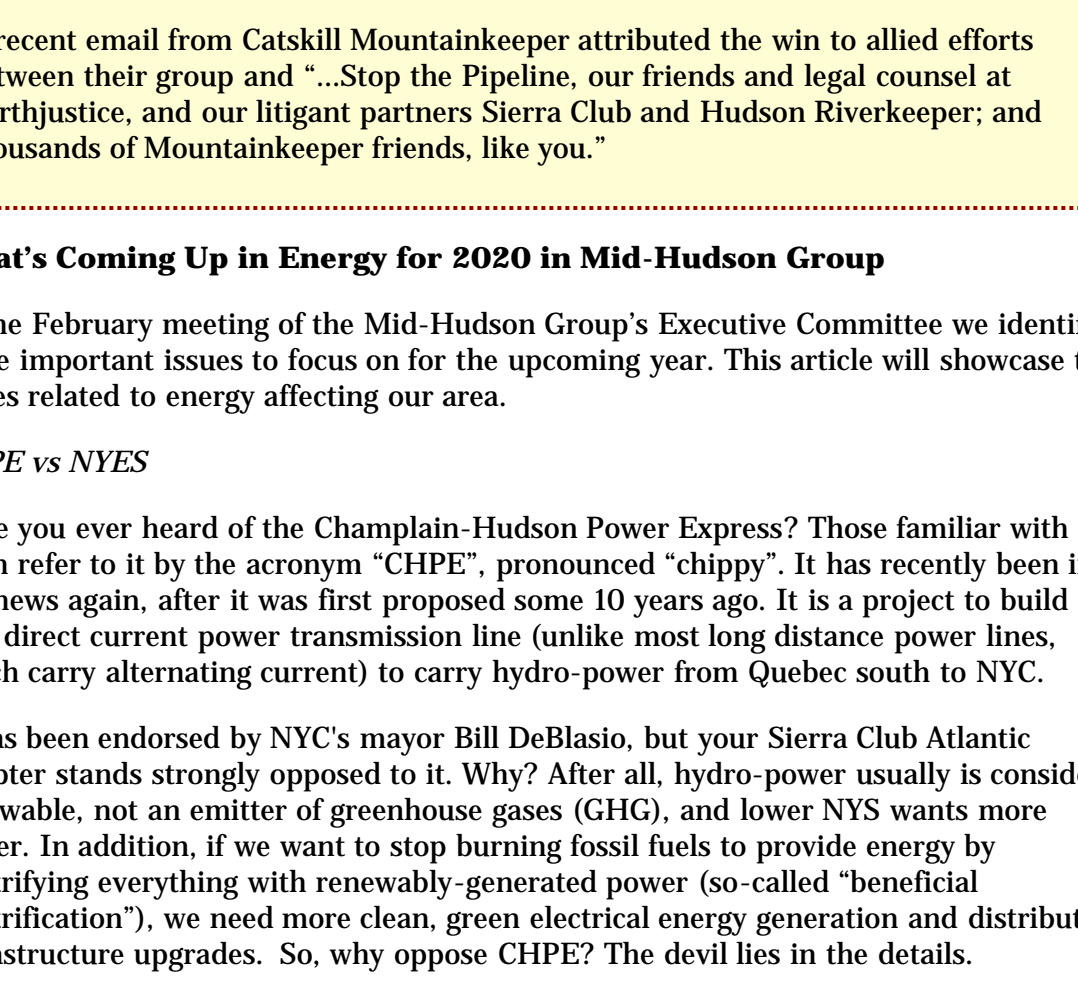
The Mid-Hudson Group of the Sierra Club, the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and other environmental groups, residents, and users of the Catskill Park feel strongly that the EAF submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to address the many adverse impacts of this manufacturing facility. These mining, rock crushing, heavy truck traffic, and other high-impact activities will affect the surrounding Bluestone Wild Forest and Onteora Lake which lie within one-quarter mile of the proposed plant. It is hoped that public pressure will convince the Town of Kingston Planning Board to take a hard look at the impacts this project will have.

What you can do:

1. Attend the Planning Board meeting at 7 pm on March 16 at the Miller Middle School, 65 Fording Place, Lake Katrine
2. If you've not already done so, [sign the petition](#) being circulated by Catskill Mountainkeeper urging the Planning Board to conduct a thorough and vigorous environmental review of this project.
3. Help raise public concern with letters to the editors of local newspapers (*Woodstock* and *Saugerties Times*, *Daily Freeman*, etc.)
4. Once the public comment period opens, submit your comments to the Town of Kingston Planning Board.

For more information, see the previous articles in our [Fall and Winter newsletters](#). The 850 LLC Application Documents, including the EAFs, can be found on the [Town of Kingston website](#).

A Bluestone Forest Citizens Action Group meets biweekly at the West Hurley Library. They disseminate information through their Facebook page, "Bluestone Forest", as do Catskill Mountainkeeper and the Woodstock Land Conservancy (WLC), through their websites and their Facebook pages. For timely updates about this issue, sign up for emails at maxanne.wl@gmail.com and/or bluestoneforest@gmail.com.



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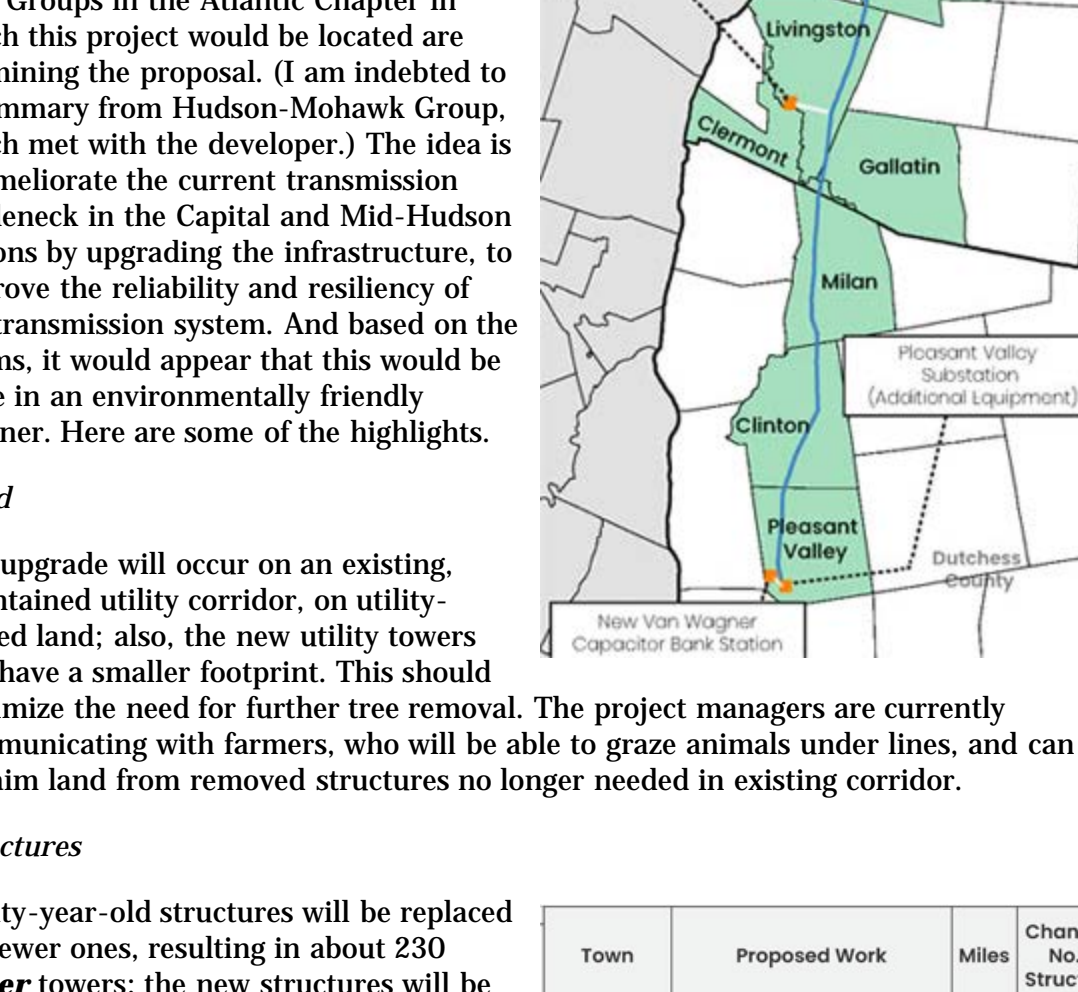
Danskammer: Dancing Around a Fire

by Bob Heinemann

Legend has it that the name Danskammer, which is Dutch, was given to this site by Henry Hudson in 1609 when his shipmates allegedly saw Native Americans dancing around a fire. Times may have changed, and not for the better, as now we are all dancing around an inferno and alternately splashing through a flood. Look at the recent fires in Australia and the American West or to the melting polar ice cap. Take your pick, actually it's two for the price of one. Danskammer today is an unsightly and now seldom used fossil fuel generating station in Newburgh on the west bank of the Hudson River that moneyed investors want to expand and re-power with fracked gas as New York is trying to transition to renewable energy sources.

Background of Danskammer

The site was developed by Central Hudson Gas & Electric in the early 1950's. The plant burned coal for decades and used Hudson river water to cool the plant, then pumped it back into the river creating large fish kills. The plant smoke stacks dirtied the air for miles and are still an unsightly presence looming on the river banks. In 2001 Danskammer was sold to Dynergy for \$903 million as the electric industry was being deregulated. Coal no longer was received by rail, but rather by ship on the river. Danskammer was one of the major sources of pollutants by weight in New York with 1.4 million pounds of hazardous waste as recently as 2000. DEC continued to issue use permits despite litigation filed by Riverkeeper.



Dynergy ultimately filed for bankruptcy in 2011. Storm damage from Hurricane Sandy shut the plant down in 2012 during the pendency of the litigation. Dynergy unloaded Danskammer in 2013 by selling the plant to Helios Power Capital, LLC for \$68 million. Helios planned to dismantle the plant but due to economic incentives issued by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) decided to renovate and reopen Danskammer. DEC and EPA issued permits authorizing only natural gas as the primary fuel, and the plant was restarted in 2014 as a peaker plant of limited utility, yet it collected increased revenues now being in an approved capacity zone.

In 2018 Danskammer's current owners, Danskammer Energy, LLC, applied for permission to build a \$500 million, 535 megawatt facility to replace their existing 511-megawatt natural gas plant. The replacement plant would be built on adjacent land, with the former plant used to house batteries. They filed an application in 2018 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need pursuant to Article 10 of the Public Service Law. That application is pending, and stands a good chance of being granted despite opposition from the City of Newburgh, the City of Beacon, the City of Peekskill and environmental groups like Riverkeeper and Sierra Club.

Economic Impacts

The Town of Newburgh and Orange County are in favor of the Article 10 application for short sighted reasons that accept the owners pie-in-the-sky promises about providing tax revenues for school districts and additional jobs for residents. If past history and several tax reductions granted to prior owners are any indication, tax relief for the surrounding communities are misleading.

When taxes were reduced for the actual electricity provided by the plant, school districts lost significant tax assistance and saw their planned capital expenditures disappear as residents' school taxes increased. As for the creation of jobs, flings by Tiger Infrastructure with the Public Service Commission for the permit application indicate that only six to eight management jobs and possibly 20 full time staff positions would be created. This is a paltry reward in comparison to the future revenue stream expected by the investors behind Danskammer Energy, LLC.

At present, Danskammer is a peaker plant only operating about 20 times a year during high demand periods yet receiving NYISO capacity payments. The promise of payments by the plant's owners to the Town of Newburgh to fund public services will not be shared with the surrounding communities or the adjacent City of Newburgh, a city with a majority population of Black and Latino citizens. Those communities will share, however, in the air pollution from Danskammer and in the attendant delay toward funding alternative sources of renewable energy.

Environmental Impacts

Danskammer's owners claim that a re-powered plant will fill their projected modest gap in electricity needs for Long Island and New York City over perhaps a 10 year period while New York transitions to clean renewable energy pursuant to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) of 2019. The CLCPA set mandatory goals for providing 70 percent of the state's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030, and carbon re-power by 2040. Yet the earliest that a new Danskammer plant will begin operating is in 2023, and it will increase the use of fracked gas in New York for energy needs working against the urgent time frame of the CLCPA. In contrast, NYISO's most recent 10-year reliability plan covering the period from 2019 to 2028 anticipates that there will be enough local electricity.

The environmental risks in approving new permits and exemptions for fracked gas infrastructure are enormous. All efforts and economic incentives need to be focused exclusively on transitioning expeditiously to clean renewable energy. Exceptions guaranteed delays in reaching the deadlines in the CLCPA.

The challenge of the day is not repurposing coal and oil based energy platforms into fracked gas ones, even for the short term which by its name is short sighted, but in meeting urgent needs for new and replacement transmission lines to move electricity around the state and for battery technologies to store power longer to future needs. The short term profits of a few deep-pocket investors must not be rewarded even for so-called dirty fuel improvements. Funds need to be allocated only for renewable energy. Radical change in the energy sector is mandatory, not half or quarter measures.

Gregory Weststone, president of the American Council on Renewable Energy, an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. was quoted in the *Times Herald-Record* commenting on Danskammer: "...if you make that big investment and turn that peaker plant (in Newburgh) into a baseline plant, is that going to be a stranded investment in 10 years?"

Next Steps

If Danskammer's Article 10 application is granted, the only way to prevent this unnecessary expansion of an existing fossil fuel plant, which NYISO does not believe is needed to produce power, will be if Governor Cuomo rejects their proposal and does not issue a permit.

The Sierra Club recommends that New York approve legislation to update Article 10 siting to provide a clear prohibition on fossil fuel development in keeping with the mandated goals of the CLCPA. Danskammer's pending Article 10 application would undermine the CLCPA by allowing business as usual to interfere with the urgent need to deal with the effects of climate change.

This potential plant expansion is an important issue for all residents of the Hudson Valley. It deserves our attention with phone calls and letters to Governor Cuomo opposing the issuance of a permit.

Information Links

- [Times Herald-Record Article](#)
- [Wikipedia info](#)
- [NYISO study](#)
- [Riverkeeper link](#)

Daily Freeman Article, 4/03/2014 – [Sierra Club critical of plan to restart D power plant](#)

[Public Accountability Initiative Article](#)

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Overcrowding by Invasive Plants

by Nancy Severns

A native species is a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred in that area. Non-native invasive species are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats. Invasive species can have a significant effect on our natural resources, human health, and economy.

In general, non-native plants do well in habitats similar to the that of their origin and have characteristics that enable them to outcompete native plants. A non-native plant may flower more often and produce more seeds. This property may allow it to gain a better foothold than native plants. Most come without the predators, pests, parasites, and pathogens that keep their populations in balance in their native ecosystems. They can thrive without these limitations to reproduction and survival.

Thriving invasives crowd out native plants. The Norway maple is a tree generally considered to be out of control and crowding out native forest trees. Purple loosestrife has tiny seeds that spread by wind or water. It can cover thousands of acres in size, crowding out open water habitat for butterflies and amphibians. Oriental bittersweet and Japanese barberry have grown out of control. Many invasives operate by outcompeting native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture.

There are many online resources for managing invasive plants. General recommendations are included on the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) website from which this material was derived. In addition, the [New York Invasive Species Information](#) website from Cornell University Cooperative Extension includes species profiles with prevention and control measures.

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Energy Corner by Nivo Rovedo

Good News!

As noted by the group Catskill Mountainkeeper on February 25th: "After eight long years of tireless fighting by Catskill Mountainkeeper and our supporters and allies, it looks like the Constitution Pipeline may finally be dead: Williams [Williams Companies, the Oklahoma energy giant], with support from its partners Duke, Cabot and AltaGas, has halted investment in the proposed Constitution project," reported *Oneonta's The Daily Star*."

The intent of the Constitution Pipeline was to route fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale into New York. It received federal approval in 2014, and officials expected in the next year that it would be delivering natural gas to New York. However, setbacks and opposition from environmental groups delayed the project. In addition, Governor Cuomo opposed the project as it ran against his long term plan to de-carbonize which was outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act CLCPA.

A recent email from Catskill Mountainkeeper attributed the win to allied efforts between their group and "...Stop the Pipeline, our friends and legal counsel at Earthjustice, and our litigant partners Sierra Club and Hudson Riverkeeper; and thousands of Mountainkeeper friends, like you."

What's Coming Up in Energy for 2020 in Mid-Hudson Group

At the February meeting of the Mid-Hudson Group's Executive Committee we identified some important issues to focus on for the upcoming year. This article will showcase two issues related to energy affecting our area.

CHPE vs NYES

Have you ever heard of the Champlain-Hudson Power Express? Those familiar with it often refer to it by the acronym "CHPE", pronounced "chippy". It has recently been in the news again, after it was first proposed some 10 years ago. It is a project to build a new direct current power transmission line (unlike most long distance power lines, which carry alternating current) to carry hydro-power from Quebec south to NYC.

It has been endorsed by NYC's mayor Bill DeBlasio, but your Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter stands strongly opposed to it. Why? After all, hydro-power usually is considered renewable, not an emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG), and lower NYS wants more power. In addition, if we want to stop burning fossil fuels to provide energy by electrifying everything with renewably-generated power (so-called "beneficial electrification"), we need more clean, green electrical energy generation and distribution infrastructure upgrades. So, why oppose CHPE? The devil lies in the details.

A petition was recently making the rounds on the internet in opposition to imported Canadian electricity that contains a great deal of devilish details. [Take a look at the petition](#). It is the work of the [North American Megadamm Resistance Alliance](#) and although this website most specifically involves a similar proposal in Massachusetts and only briefly refers to CHPE, the underlying problems it highlights are the same. The bottom line is that: "It is a human rights, climate, and environmental disaster." Here are a few diabolical details:

Human Rights Violations

Building the dams to create the reservoirs that act as water sources for hydro-power flood thousands of acres of people from indigenous land; this destroys traditional ways of life, preventing indigenous of traditional practicing their cultural heritage. Moreover, these megadams are often built without the consent of the communities that they will be adversely affecting.

Health Problems

Creating the reservoirs means flooding forests, rivers, streams, and wetlands, which releases toxic methylmercury. The website mentions a recent [Harvard University study](#) which states: "Microbes convert naturally occurring mercury in soils into potent methylmercury when the land is flooded, such as when dams are built for hydroelectric projects. The methylmercury moves into the water and animals, magnifying as it moves up the food chain." It can persist in the environment for up to 30 years, poisoning food supplies relied on by local communities. The study finds that "90% of proposed Canadian hydroelectric facilities may expose local indigenous communities to unacceptable levels of methylmercury."

Greenhouse Gas Emission

The website mentions some startling statistics from a recent study published in *BioScience* indicating that "hydroelectric dams worldwide release a billion tons of greenhouse gases per year due to the flooding of forests, peatlands, rivers and other ecosystems. The creation of reservoirs for power generation also wipes out important sources of carbon sequestration such as boreal forests." In addition, "Canadian megadams are in an area where the amount of power produced per acre of flooded land is among the [lowest in the world](#)." Time is another factor to consider: with about 10 years to reduce GHG emissions to avoid the worst of the predicted catastrophic climate changes, "there is no time to invest in false climate solutions such as hydro-power."

Biodiversity

Because they destroy hundreds of thousands of acres of boreal forests, wetlands, and peatlands, and divert and dam rivers and streams, the flow, function, and ecology of rivers and forests are negatively affected and biodiversity is reduced. Here's another worrisome quote from the website: "According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems is being [lost](#) more quickly than in any other ecosystem with an [88%](#) decline in freshwater megafauna between 1970 and 2012."

Impacts on Renewable Energy Development

CHPE will not allow power sources along its line to tap into it to provide electricity, so it would discourage the development of upstate renewable generation projects. We should be trying to encourage NYS renewable energy generation, not importing power from outside. This will be a new transmission line, slashing its way through the terrain and possibly running cables under the Hudson River, with all the problems this entails. For all these reasons, one goal of our Mid-Hudson Group is to oppose CHPE in 2020.

An Alternative Proposal: NY-ES

So we want to electrify everything but we want to do it the right way, with renewably-sourced, clean, green power. We will need to update transmission infrastructure to tap into the potential of upstate power generation for downstream needs. And there is a proposed project which might be more acceptable, called New York Energy Solutions, the [overview of which can be found here](#). It stands in stark contrast to CHPE. The NY-ES project does not involve generation directly (though it could encourage renewable energy development) but rather a distribution infrastructure upgrade.

Two Groups in the Atlantic Chapter in which this project would be located are examining the proposal. (I am indebted to a summary from Hudson-Mohawk Group, which met with the developer.) The idea is to ameliorate the current transmission bottleneck in the Capital and Mid-Hudson regions by upgrading the infrastructure, to improve the reliability and resiliency of the transmission system. And based on the claims, it would appear that this would be done in an environmentally friendly manner. Here are some of the highlights.

Land

The upgrade will occur on an existing, maintained utility corridor, on utility-owned land; also, the new utility towers will have a smaller footprint. This should minimize the need for further tree removal. The project managers are currently communicating with farmers, who will be able to graze animals under lines, and can reclaim land from removed structures no longer needed in existing corridor.

Structures

Eighty-year-old structures will be replaced by newer ones, resulting in about 230 **fewer** towers; the new structures will be better able to handle wind and ice, use new double-circuit single pole towers (not the typical 4-footed-base lattice-structured towers) and have 345kV lines at 2,000 megawatts and be about ten feet higher than the old (average 90' in height). The new towers will be in compliance as existing structures are currently out of compliance. Once the line gets south of Pleasant Valley it connects to the existing grid.

Town	Proposed Work	Miles	Change in No. of Structures
Schockack	New Knickerbocker 345kV New Switching Station on utility-owned land	-	-
Schockack	10' 10" 345kV line	2.6	+4
Stuyvesant	10' 10" 345kV line	8.0	+4
Stockport	10' 10" 345kV line	4.5	+3
Ghent	Holds a new 345kV line and one existing 115kV line	0.8	No Change
Cloverack	Holds a new 345kV line and one existing 115kV line	6.3	+12
Livingston	Rebuild the existing Churchtown 115kV Switching Station on existing utility-owned land	-	-
Livingston	10' 10" 345kV line	2.2	No Change
Cloverack	10' 10" 345kV line	1.0	-7
Livingston	10' 10" 345kV line	8.3	-60
Gallatin	10' 10" 345kV line	1.2	-9
Gallatin	10' 10" 345kV line	0.7	-4
Milton	10' 10" 345kV line	8.0	-76
Milton	10' 10" 345kV line	8.0	-59
Pleasant Valley	Holds a new 345kV line and one existing 115kV line	5.1	+38
Pleasant Valley	New Van Wagner Capacitor Bank Station and upgrades to Pleasant Valley Substation	0.8	+5

Renewable Energy Possibilities

Because the line will carry the standard alternating current, it has the potential to allow solar and wind farms to tap in so as to deliver their power to market. This is consistent with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) goals passed last year to get our grid off fossil fuels.

Outreach

The project's application is available for viewing at www.NY-ES.com, with hard copies in libraries and town halls along corridor. Developers met with town supervisors and teams have gone door-to-door to over 500 abutting properties. In addition, 10 community meetings have been held and six project mailers with updates have been sent. There is a project facts video available on the website. [Even more detail can be found here](#).

This project estimates completion by the end of 2023, so it could help within the climate crisis window we have.

Where is the negative side? Some questions from the Chapter remain over treatment of lands in the corridor, as NY-ES says 33 new structures will be within wetlands, which they say they will mitigate and manage. We are still investigating this aspect, so stay tuned.

Danskammer Power Plant in Newburgh

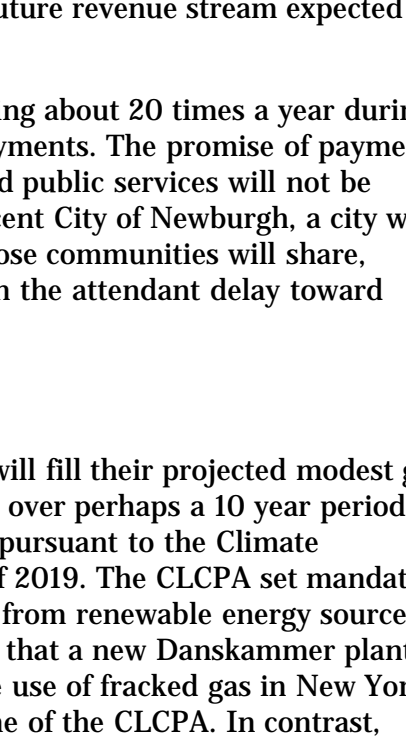
Another 2020 item on our Mid-Hudson Group is to oppose the Danskammer power plant upsizing. (See Bob Heinemann's detailed article in this newsletter.) As you may be aware, there are plans afoot to increase the Danskammer capacity by powering it with more gas. Not only would this entail building out more gas pipeline infrastructure in NYS to feed the enlargement, it would also increase the GHG emission. This is contrary to the goals of the CLCPA.

There is plenty of power available from upstate if we improve that bottleneck in transmission coming south. Our Group may be starting a letter writing campaign to the governor on this issue, among other actions. If the future of our region and the planet worries you, do you want to get involved? Your Mid-Hudson Group could certainly use your help; we welcome your involvement. [Contact us](#).

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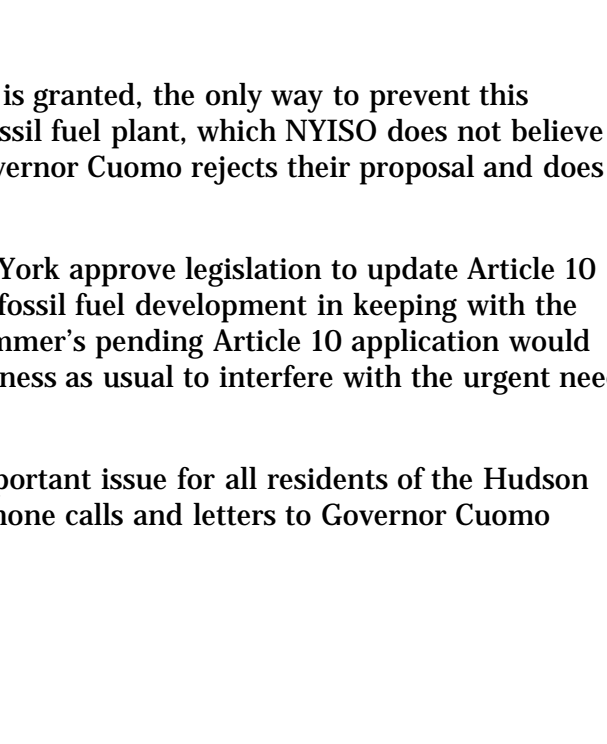
Book Review by Sarah Kennedy

I spent this afternoon walking at Scenic Hudson's Black Creek Preserve in Esopus, New York. When I wander through those trails, or many of the others we have so close to home, I recall the book *Walking* by Henry David Thoreau. The edition from Tilbury House Publishers includes an introduction by Adam Tuchinsky and is beautifully arranged. It includes an old map and a sample page in Thoreau's own handwriting, as well as many beautiful photographs which were largely chosen from an exhibit of contemporary photos at the Maine Museum of Photographic Arts. These black and white photos enhance the text, and help the reader slow down and savor the words.

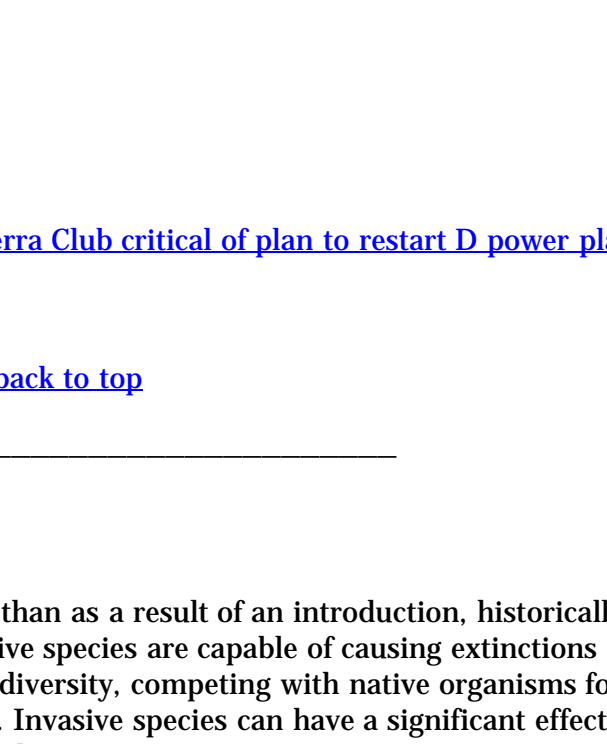


When I read this slim book I feel a great kinship with Thoreau who wrote these words: "I, who cannot stay in my chamber for a single day without acquiring some rust, and when sometimes I have stolen forth for a walk at the eleventh hour, or four o'clock in the afternoon, too late to redeem the day, when the shades of night were already beginning to be mingled with the daylight, have felt as if I had committed some sin to be atoned for..." How often I have stolen away just before dark to spend some time in nature, listening hard for evidence of birds or wildlife, mildly frustrated when the light is too low to use my binoculars properly.

Thoreau's ideas certainly align with modern environmentalists in many ways, making the book feel relevant even though posthumously in 1862. Thoreau wrote, "Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps...I have frequently found that I was attracted solely by a few square rods of impermeable and unfathomable bog—a natural sink...That was the jewel that dazzled me. I derive more of my subsistence from the swamps which surround my native town than from the cultivated gardens in the village."



Currently, the Sierra Club is working to extend more protection to wetlands here in New York State. I sense Thoreau would be in support of this effort if he was here today. He wrote, "When I would recreate myself I seek the darkest wood, the thickest and most interminable, and to the citizen, most dismal swamp. I enter a swamp as a sacred place—a sanctuary-sanctum. There is the strength, the marrow of Nature." I relate so completely to these ideas, for it is in nature that I find my solace, and renewal.



Today, at Black Creek Preserve I found remnants of old stone walls, small creeks, and vernal pools that were still somewhat frozen, while chickadees, tufted titmouse, and nuthatches sang in the tall white pines, and pileated woodpecker called as it flew by. I found renewal.

For more information on the Black Creek Preserve, please visit the [Scenic Hudson](#) website.

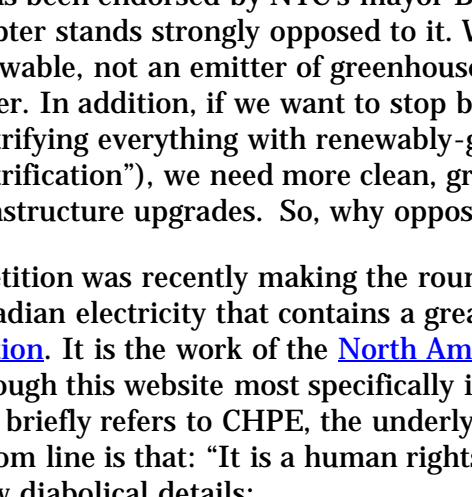
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Letters from our Members

Editor's note: We are pleased to introduce this new Member Letters section to our quarterly newsletter. Send us a letter about issues that are important to you—whether local, state or national. Please submit your letters to our Newsletter Editor, Andy Moss, at andy@sierraclub.org. Our submission schedule is posted at the bottom of our website's [Newsletters](#) page. We will consider letters of up to 250 words. Your letter will be published in the next newsletter upon review and acceptance by the editor. Subjects should focus on Sierra Club areas of interest: conservation, environmental protection, political action, climate change, getting outdoors, etc. Visit the Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, or Mid-Hudson Group website to learn more about where we stand.

Fundraising by David Friedman

2020 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



Sierra Club 2020 Calendars are priced at \$14.00 (discounted) each. You can choose from the **Wilderness Wall Calendar** which features a full page image for each month or the **Engagement Calendar** which features a full page picture for each week of the year and room for notations/appointments. They are often considered the most beautiful calendars in the world. The calendars are available at [Barnes Books in New Paltz](#) (3 Church Street), or they can be ordered by calling 843-255-2635 and shipped to any address you wish (shipping is \$5 per side every). The calendars make beautiful gifts for friends, family or even yourself! We sell out every year, so pick yours up today! **The mid-Hudson Group benefits from your purchase.**

Make A Gift - Make A Difference

Our local group depends on the support of volunteers and the generosity of our membership. The work of the group takes Sierra Club volunteer effort, and of course funds. We hope that you will consider making a gift to the Mid-Hudson group of the Sierra Club. In these turbulent times it's vital that we all do what we can to speak out and work for the protection of our environment and the future of our world. We welcome and appreciate your support, and encourage you to consider providing financial support for our efforts. Our mailing address is at the bottom of this newsletter.

To speak about specific opportunities, or with any questions, please contact David Friedman, Friedman_David@msn.com, or our Treasurer Ralph Pollard, ralphpollard@verizon.net.

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