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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LANDMARK WIN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH; NY'S CLIMATE LAW KILLS DIRTY ENERGY PROPOSAL

Newburgh, NY- On Monday, a 6 year fight for clean air and public health came to an end when Danskammer Energy withdrew its application to build a new fracked gas plant on the Hudson River in Newburgh, NY. In a landmark decision, Danskammer was denied its Title V air permit in October of 2021, based on its inconsistency with the CLCPA. The company sought to overturn the ruling, but it was upheld in June of 2022, when the Court ruled that the DEC had ample authority under the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) to deny permits for new polluting gas plants that interfered with the law's aggressive GHG emissions reductions mandates. In June of 2023, the company asked for a year-long pause (a "stay") to determine if they would submit a new application or withdraw. On Monday, June 17th 2024, they withdrew their application permanently.

Danskammer Energy LLC was acquired by Tiger Infrastructure Partners, a private equity firm, in September 2017, in partnership with Agate Power. Tiger Infrastructure was [self-described](#) as a "[middle-market private equity firm that invests in growing infrastructure platforms.](#)" In May of 2018, Danskammer Energy filed a Public Involvement Plan with the New York State Siting Board, and by December of 2019, with the help of a newly-formed Stop Danskammer Coalition, 12 Hudson Valley municipalities had passed resolutions against the proposed plant. That number would eventually grow to 25, along with a unanimous bipartisan resolution passed by the Westchester County Legislature. Sunrise Westchester, a youth climate movement, was instrumental in the county success, along with various coalition member organizations and volunteers. "Thank god this fight is over and the people won. The City of Newburgh and the Hudson Valley deserve a fossil-free future, which is the best outcome for our community" commented Mark Sanchez-Potter, a City of Newburgh resident, public school teacher, and active Stop Danskammer Coalition member. "The fight for environmental justice continues and I am grateful to be a part of that. Power to the People!"

To support packed public forums and rallies throughout the 5 year campaign, the Stop Danskammer Coalition held a series of roundtables and [webinars](#), featuring leading health, science, and economic experts, along with community leaders, residents, and business owners. The gas slated to be shipped via pipeline and burned at the proposed plant is derived from hydrofracturing, or "fracking", a noxious extraction process that was banned by New York State in 2015 but continues in neighboring states. The coalition's "Cycle of Harm" educational series explored the toxic journey of shale gas, (a fossil fuel which is referred to by names including "natural gas", "fracked gas", or "methane gas") from wellheads in Pennsylvania, through pipeline, to combustion. Presenters helped inform the public about the lasting effects an expanded Danskammer plant would have on community health, economy, and the environment.

Air quality is especially a concern for communities living near fracked gas plant– the new Danskammer would [emit over 25 times more particulate matter](#) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). [PM 2.5](#) can cause heart and lung disease, whereas [VOCs](#), which are chemicals found in paints, solvents and other industrial processes can be harmful to health even with a short exposure. Potential health impacts include pneumonia, bronchitis, painful breathing, skin irritation, headaches, disease of the heart, liver, lung, and even cancer.

In 2016, The City of Newburgh's drinking water supply was found to be contaminated by PFAS chemicals. An environmental justice community, Newburgh's majority Black and Latino was already experiencing negative health outcomes including: reduced efficacy of vaccines, increased thyroid and kidney cancers, and low birth weights in newborns. "This community could not survive

another environmental burden”, states Tamsin Hollo, of Newburgh Clean Water Project. “It was vital to residents and future generations living here that this plant be stopped. Communities like ours are more likely to be targeted for damaging projects by predatory corporations, which has resulted in the health crisis we already see here every day.”

Danskammer is the most recent proposed fracked gas plant proposal that has failed in New York since the state passed the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act. Proposals to build new gas plants in Astoria and Gowanus in New York City failed in 2021, and shortly thereafter, it was announced that the proposed gas plant site in Astoria would be sold to offshore wind investors.

“It’s relieving to see that fossil fuel energy companies like Danskammer are receiving the “No More Fossil Fuels” message from New Yorkers”, Eric Wood, NYPIRG’s Hudson Valley Regional Coordinator commented. “It is a precedent setting victory that they withdrew their Title V application for their proposed gas expansion project. It would be great to see the proposed expansion site be slowly converted into something more productive and healthy for the region as the permit for the current Danskammer peaker plant phases out in 2025.”

The CLCPA commits to 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040, sets legally binding emissions reduction standards to get New York completely off of fossil fuels by 2050, and mandates that 40% of state climate and energy funding be invested in disproportionately disadvantaged communities. Mothers Out Front’s Johanna Fallert commented, “As we celebrate this victory in the Hudson Valley, wildfires in California and New Mexico are raging out of control. We can pause for a moment, but the fight to mitigate climate change and advocate for a livable climate for ourselves and all children is not over.”

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The Stop Danskammer Coalition is a non-partisan alliance of organizations, community groups, faith-based congregations, elected officials, businesses, residents, and health professionals united that was founded to oppose the approval of a new Danskammer fracked gas plant. For more info, visit stoptheplant.org.