

*Town Of Blenheim Relicensing Committee
1681 State Route 30
North Blenheim, NY 12131*

April 12, 2016

Town of Blenheim Relicensing Committee
Chet Keyser; Chairman
1681 State Route 30
North Blenheim, NY 12131
(518) 827-4748

Re: FERC Project Number: 2685-026
Comments to NYPA Initial Study Report
To whom it may concern:

I'm writing on behalf of the Town of Blenheim Relicensing Committee to express our full support for comments submitted by the BLTCRC in response to the NYPA Initial Study Report. We would also like to add emphasis to their comments concerning study 4. The Socio-Economics and Effect of the Tax-Exempt Status of the Facility on the Local and Neighboring Communities.

From the very first scoping sessions concerning the relicensing of the Blenheim Gilboa facility members of our community, elected leaders, and concerned citizens have raised allegations that the local taxing jurisdictions have suffered economically due to the facilities tax exempt status and its occupation of many acres of otherwise productive property. We strongly believe that the socio economic study will verify these claims, but we recognize the need for objectivity. It is very important that the parameters of this study are crafted in a way that the true answer to these allegations are revealed and that the study is not manipulated to cloud the real situation. We would request that the study area be limited to Schoharie County and not include all of NYS as suggested by NYPA. The study needs to determine whether Blenheim, or Fulton, or Middleburgh are harmed economically, not Binghamton, or Rochester, or the whole of NYS.

In addition, in order to make an accurate judgment of the economic impacts the true value of the NYPA facility must be considered. The only way to guarantee that the proper value is being utilized in the study is to have a professional appraisal performed. No one in the real estate business relies on an assessed value as a measure of true property value and we shouldn't in this situation either. Banks require appraisals prior to lending, realtors rely on recent sales of comparable properties, and judges routinely order appraisals for assessment challenges or other court proceedings. While it may be inconvenient or represent an additional cost to the relicensing process it is the best way to make sure the outcome of the Socio-Economic study is valid.

In conclusion, we wish to echo the sentiments of the BLTCR in their detailed submission and encourage you to incorporate their suggestions as well as our own into the study plan.

Respectively Submitted,

Chet Keyser

Chairman Town of Blenheim Relicensing Committee (TBRC)