

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Lise Kennedy >
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Comments 11/17/22

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11/17/22

Hi everybody,

I'm Lise Kennedy. I spoke here at the beginning of the month against the Hughes Energy project, and since then I've been in numerous discussions about it and have heard nothing at all to convince me that Hughes Energy would be good for Sullivan County, that their technology is safe or that it even works. I agree with Ken that there should be an RFP instead of this sales pitch from one company. I thought that part about the pure virgin fibers was actually pretty funny. I can't fathom why the Chairman is taking such a determined run at this, but from what I now know, environmentalists' opposition to Hughes Energy in the United States is very well organized. Environmental opposition will not die away if this resolution is passed, it will increase, and there will be a cost, perhaps substantial, to our county. I watched the Chairman browbeat Heather Brown and Ed McAndrews, both of whom are much better qualified to deal with these issues than he is. I hear that the Chairman now wants to form a committee with Heather, Ed, and several other legislators to pursue the urgent matter of Sullivan County's waste. How about this for an idea; let's let our very able, well trained, educated and expert county employees do their jobs and ask the Chairman to do his, which is to organize and conduct these meetings in an orderly way, which should include letting his peers discuss issues without the Chairman's making jokes or commenting on everything everyone says or cutting them off or denigrating them or shouting over everyone else continually. I'd like to hear more from the real experts about the Sullivan County composting program which is coming in order to process our organic waste and other avenues that are being pursued to reduce our waste, as has been already discussed during the last month's meetings.

KW 11/17 full Board

Questions for Hughes Energy

Where will the water come from?

Where will the wastewater go?

What chemicals will Hughes test for in wastewater?

How many commercial plants using the Wilson system are currently active?

How will Hughes prevent accidents like fires and explosions?

What specific materials will Hughes recycle?

How will Hughes dispose of nonrecyclables, including plastics #3-7?

Does Hughes have customers for the fiber?

How far is Hughes prepared to transport the fiber to sell it?

How much fossil fuel would be required per ton of garbage autoclaved?

Has an objective, third-party carbon life-cycle analysis been conducted?

Questions for Hughes Energy 2

How many other places has Hughes tried to pitch similar projects?

How many on hold?

How many denied? (why?)

HISTORY: (from an email of Judith P Maguire “

Re3 made a presentation to Sullivan County about 8-10 years ago. This is a brochure I found online about them. Do notice the principles of the company are many of the same folks involved in

Hughes. <https://www.slideshare.net/iCAN-Global/the-cutting-edge-of-waste-conversion-and-recycling-19603717>

In 2019 they went to Rockland County and there were not interested.

I sent along a word document with a transcription of a conversation with the chairman of Rockland Green, which is their waste management agency.

Then 2020 they went to Roxbury and Prattsville (Delaware and Greene Counties respectively). By the time we learned about it the planning board had Ok'ed it and the DEC was made lead agency. They still haven't gotten the draft EIS to DEC, a full year later. Then they went to Fort Edward in Washington or Warren. Then Halfmoon in Saratoga, now Sullivan. Hope this helps!

Comments at 11/17/22 Sullivan County Legislature meeting

Good morning. My name is Rebekah Creshkoff, and I live in Callicoon.

Today the legislature will vote on a resolution to lease a building to Hughes Energy, which claims it can “recycle” mixed municipal waste into a salable product.

The technology they are selling comes from the UK — specifically, a firm called Wilson Bio-Chemical, which was chartered in 2006. As of June 2020, the date of their latest available balance sheet, the company carried more than £770,000 of debt — nearly a million dollars at today's exchange rates.

Eleven different companies using Wilson’s autoclave technology and involving the same group of six to eight individuals have been incorporated in the UK and Ireland since 2002. None has ever successfully opened a working commercial facility anywhere in the world.

Only the three most recent companies are still active. Not one of them is profitable. None has assets over £2,500 — that's less than \$3,000.

Between 2004 and 2016, many different European companies tried autoclaving mixed municipal waste, but nearly all failed. The technique is now discredited in Europe.

Rather than recycling, perhaps Hughes Energy’s actual business model is launching green-sounding enterprises to secure government grants and tax credits earmarked for companies addressing climate change — then declaring bankruptcy so they won’t get sued. Rinse and repeat.

A far more promising approach is the Solid Waste Committee we understand is in the process of being formed. For starters, we need to stop thinking of what we throw away as “waste” and come to see it for what it actually is: a resource with value.

Food waste is an obvious example. It's the #1 material in American landfills, comprising 24 percent of all municipal solid waste. Meanwhile, there is strong demand for quality compost, which fetches \$75 a ton.

The highest and best use of food waste is to compost it and put it on farmland, which sorely needs organic matter returned to it. We look forward to the day — we hope quite soon — when the DEC grants a permit for the county's proposed composting operation.

In addition to composting, there are two other key avenues for mining the valuable resources we currently mislabel as waste: optimizing recycling, and material recovery enterprises. All three approaches provide opportunities to create jobs and generate revenues for the county.

Members of Don't Trash the Catskills – Sullivan encourage the committee to explore these approaches. We stand ready to assist with researching viable options that will work for our county. Thank you.



The Hughes Garbage Plant is Still a Threat to Our Community!

In 2020, Hughes LLC, a for-profit company, proposed a 7-story, 124,500 sq. ft. industrial waste-to-fuel plant for a rural 40-acre parcel in Grand Gorge, NY near Schoharie Creek.

Through an unproven, pellet-producing autoclave steam process, the proposed site would receive 175,000 tons of unregulated municipal waste per year, trucked in from a 50-mile radius.

This monstrosity would result in significant traffic, noise, air and water pollution and infrastructure burdens to our communities and fragile ecosystems.

THE UPDATE

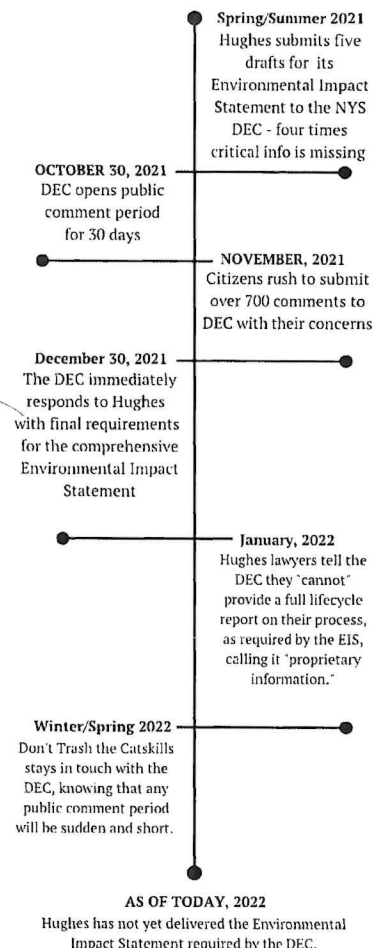
Thanks to the community activism, 755 public comments were submitted in November 2021 to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

In December 2021, the DEC **mandated** that Hughes LLC provide a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to cover the following:

- **Water Pollution:** Threats to drinking water for 9 million New Yorkers from wastewater, microplastics, and toxic 'forever chemicals' from industrial waste
- **Air Pollution:** Diesel Truck Traffic and Chemical release from autoclave process.
- **Noise Pollution:** Industrial, gas-fired autoclave equipment would operate 24-hrs a day.
- **Odor Pollution:** Unsorted rotting household and industrial garbage stored at the site.
- **Diesel Truck Traffic:** Accident risk, 18-wheelers traveling rural routes, including liquid gas to fuel the site
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions over Project Lifecycle:** Impacts of Fossil Fuel use to run equipment and transport garbage to the site.
- **Public Infrastructure:** Impacts on Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in event of fire, injury or explosion

After 4 months, Hughes LLC has yet to submit their EIS for public review. Their lawyers have already attempted to water down the requirements. Once they release the EIS, we will have only 30 days to comment.

HUGHES LLC TIMELINE



This would be the first-ever plant of its kind and scale in the US.

We refuse to be a testing ground for unproven greenwashing technology.