



WOODSTOCK, N.Y.
COLONY OF THE ARTS

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Ulster County Climate Smart Committee Town of Woodstock Update July 24, 2017

Summary of Current Activities

Beaver Kill Stream Restoration Project¹

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP), Town of Woodstock, City of Kingston, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection are launching a major stream restoration in the Mink Hollow section of the Beaver Kill near Van Hoagland Road this summer. The Beaver Kill, which is the main source of water for Kingston's Cooper Lake reservoir, flows next to Mink Hollow Rd. in a narrow valley. Over time the channel has eroded downward (incised) and is now undercutting its banks.

The eroding slopes rise 110 feet above the channel. Groundwater flows through these hillslopes and ooze mud composed of fine sediments that travel suspended to the Ashokan Reservoir increasing turbidity. The Town of Woodstock is concerned about the trees falling from the slumping hillslopes that could block the Mink Hollow bridge immediately downstream.

RFP for Seasonal Restroom Winterization

A seasonal restroom located near the Woodstock municipal parking lot in the business district was earlier identified as huge user of electricity. Part of the reason was that the restroom was designed for use during the summer months, but its use has been extended through the holiday season. Also the restroom is uninsulated. The Town Board has issued an RFP to weatherize the restroom and change the heating system to improve efficiency and reduce cost.

PSC to Ban ESCOs from Selling to Low-Income Customers²

State Supreme Court Justice Henry Zwack dismissed a lawsuit and lifted a temporary restraining order that blocked the PSC's plan to ban independent energy marketers (ESCOs) from selling electricity and gas to low-income customers.

¹ *Stream Restoration Projects to Launch*, Esopus Creek News Trib, Summer 2017, <http://mailchi.mp/fa2a5f842a51/the-trib-news-and-events-around-the-ashokan-watershed?e=f1c99adc84>

² Knauss, Tim, *Judge: NY can ban energy marketers (ESCOs) from selling to low-income customers*, Syracuse.com, June 30, 2017, http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2017/06/judge_ny_can_ban_energy_marketers_escos_from_selling_to_low-income_customers.html

The PSC plans to implement the ban beginning July 26, saying it will prevent poor consumers from paying more than necessary for household energy. The commission tried to do the same thing a year ago, but had been delayed by legal challenges from energy companies. Regulators say ESCOs often charge more than traditional utilities for energy supply.

Solar Open House – SUNY New Paltz

Monday, July 17, 2017

Solarize Hudson Valley hosted a Solar Open House at SUNY New Paltz with Solar Liberty for commercial building owners (agricultural, religious organizations, etc.) and to learn about SUNY New Paltz's microgrid. The microgrid includes a 100 KW solar array on the roof of Elting Gymnasium, a 200 KW lithium-ion battery, and 32 KW generator. The Elting Gymnasium serves as a campus emergency shelter.



Town of Wawarsing Solar

Solar Liberty reported they are installing a MW solar array in the Town Wawarsing. The Town of Wawarsing signed a 25 year contract with Solar Liberty of Buffalo, NY to construct 1.121 MW solar array on the cap of its Transfer Station. Construction will commence January 2017, with anticipated completion in July of this year. This project will reduce the Town of Wawarsing electric bill by \$31,000.00 per year.

Gas Pains – Indian Point Replacement Power

Governor Andrew Cuomo in his 2017 State of the State address announced the Indian Point Energy Center will close by April 2021 under an agreement that New York State reached with Entergy, the company that owns the facility. Under the terms of the agreement, one of the nuclear reactors will permanently cease operation by April 2020, and the other must close by April 2021.

Replacing Indian Point's generating capacity are two new natural gas generators under construction in the Mid-Hudson Valley: the CPV Valley Energy Center in Orange County and the Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dutchess County. The governor also mentioned in his address the proposed Champlain-Hudson Power Express, which would provide an additional 1,000 megawatts of Canadian hydroelectric power.

Cricket Valley Groundbreaking

A formal groundbreaking ceremony with elected officials, business and trade leaders, and company executives was held at the 193 acre site in Dover. Initial site preparation had begun last December.

Cricket Valley is a 1,200 megawatt (MW), natural gas-fired power plant in the Town of Dover in eastern Dutchess County. The 193-acre property has an existing energy infrastructure that includes electric power lines and the Iroquois natural gas pipeline delivering natural gas from eastern Canada.

In 2013, the PSC granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to build the Cricket Valley Energy Center. As a condition of that certificate, Cricket Valley was obligated to design, engineer, and construct a new, 14.6-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the energy center to Consolidated Edison's Pleasant Valley Substation. Cricket Valley will also reconductor a 3.4-mile segment of an existing 345 kV line from the energy center east to the Connecticut state line.

The project's annual tax payment is estimated to be \$3.3 million, increasing to approximately \$7.9 million, which will be shared among the school district, town, county, and state. Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall, said "there is potential for a substantial reductions in property tax bills for property owners in Dover."

The project will create 1,100 jobs during peak construction and 80 permanent and indirect jobs once the plant is operational.

CPV Valley Millennium Lateral Pipeline

A federal court threw out a lawsuit from Millennium Pipeline Co. that tried to force New York DEC to take action on a water permit application for an 8 mile pipeline extension that Millennium wants to build. The CPV Valley Energy Center was to begin operation in February 2018, but has been delayed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation failure to issue a water quality permit for the lateral pipeline project.

Until the lateral pipeline is installed, CPV Valley will be able to operate on petroleum. CPV Valley is a dual fuel facility that can operate on either natural gas or petroleum. NYISO requires all new natural gas generators to have a dual fuel capability as an alternative in case natural gas supply is curtailed or interrupted.

The CPV Valley Energy Center is a 690 MW natural gas, combined-cycle generator located in the Town of Wawayanda, Orange County.

Trial of the Wawayanda Six

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced that on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, all six defendants who were charged with Disorderly Conduct for obstructing traffic on Route 6, in the Town of Wawayanda, on December 18, 2015, during a protest against the construction of a power plant there by Competitive Power Ventures, Inc., were found guilty by Town Justice Timothy P. McElduff.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Once Cricket Valley and CPV Valley energy centers are in full operation, it's expected they will emit 5 to 6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year. The EPA estimates that the average automobile emits 4.7 metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, making the new gas plant's emissions the equivalent to adding more than a million new cars to the road.