

ORIGINAL

**FERC Project No. 15056-000,  
Ashokan Pumped Storage Project,  
submitted by Premium Energy Holdings LLC, Walnut, CA.**

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear FERC review members,

FERC ID #F649648

This letter represents my perspective on *the ill-conceived pumped water storage project* cited above. It is not the concept but rather the proposed means to which I take exception.

As former president of the *Empire State Railway Museum* for over a decade, I researched and curated several exhibits on the building of the *Ashokan Reservoir*. As such I became both proud and demoralized.

Proud because of the impressive engineering and success of this major water project, which came in early and under budget, which is almost never happens today.

As a clearly essential project for the major metropolitan center in our country it is still viable today, over a hundred years later.

Demoralized, even outraged because of the destruction and high-handed political manipulation which dislodged 7 towns, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farm families, and precious natural infrastructure, flora and fauna, all for inconsistently bias 'compensation'.

However, while we are familiar with the 'green' advantages of a pumped storage facility (re: our local *Gilboa facility*), I fail to see this as an essential project. Rather, it is a private, California based, proposal which does not even directly fuel our local *NYSEG* energy supplier. *Central Hudson* is cited instead. Of course we know 'the grid' somewhat equalizes this, but all the same, it is not 'our' project.

Others are better commenting on the ecological, economic, human and natural displacements of this ill-advised project proposal, as well as it's apparent illegal nature on so many fronts.

One of the ill-proposed sites for a storage dam is the pristine and *historic Woodland Valley*. Like so many, my family too has enjoyed this Valley as property owners and/or residents for over a hundred years. My grandfather (the honorable Judge Wilmot L. Morehouse) founded the *Woodland Park Association* at the head of the valley, and stayed at the *historic Craig House* with E.B. Miller who founded *The Roxmor* in 1898, where for over 40 years my family still reside as caretakers.

I therefore beseech you to deny this ill-conceived dam site, if not the whole project, as being extremely disruptive (on so many levels) and only minimally useful.

Sincerely yours,

**Dakin W. Morehouse**

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