



NEW YORK STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

AFFILIATED WITH BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT AFL-CIO
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January 5, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York State Building & Construction Trades Council, representing over 200,000 workers across the State, I write to urge your support in deeming the repowering application of Danskammer Energy Center complete. We believe that repowering Danskammer is a critical component in bridging the State's infrastructure with the bold renewable energy agenda being implemented in New York.

The repowered Danskammer facility would be better for the environment, as it improves local air quality, reduces carbon emissions and eliminates use of the Hudson River for cooling. It can also run on 30% green hydrogen from day one and can transition to 100% renewable hydrogen in the future. These upgrades being proposed have been endorsed by local elected officials, including the Orange County Legislature and County Executive Steven Neuhaus, among others.

Repowering Danskammer is very important to our members, as is evidenced by the support of local Building Trades Councils in the Hudson Valley and Rockland. Danskammer already has a project labor agreement in place, which would employ over 500 union workers during the construction of this facility. These jobs would provide a great opportunity for the Trades to continue providing area standard wages and benefits to local residents.

Additionally, this project would assist the State in bringing much needed revenue to local schools and government, as it is estimated to provide \$50 million in tax revenue for the residents of Orange County. There is also a community benefits agreement in place with the host Town of Newburgh.

We respectfully ask that Danskammer's Article 10 application be deemed complete and compliant so that the project can move on to the next phase of the review process. The project clearly will provide near and long-term benefits to our energy infrastructure, residents and workforce. We do not think there is a need for any further delay in moving the process forward.

Thank you very much for time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary LaBarbera
President, New York State Building & Construction Trades Council

Cc: Chair John B. Rhodes, Public Service Commission
Commissioner Basil Seggos, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Commissioner Eric Gertler, NYS Department of Economic Development
Chair Richard Kauffman, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
Commissioner Roberta Reardon, NYS Department of Labor