



SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

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December 16, 2014

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. James Quigley, and
Members of the Town of Ulster Town Board
1 Town Hall Drive
Lake Katrine, New York 12449

Re: SEQRA Public Scoping Process for Niagara Bottling Facility

Dear Supervisor Quigley and Town Board Members:

Please accept the following comments regarding the above-referenced matter on behalf of Scenic Hudson, Inc. Scenic Hudson works to protect and restore the Hudson River as an irreplaceable national treasure and a vital resource for residents and visitors. A crusader for the valley since 1963, today we are the largest environmental group focused on the Hudson River Valley. Scenic Hudson combines land acquisition, support for agriculture, citizen-based advocacy and sophisticated planning tools to create environmentally healthy communities, champion smart economic growth, open up riverfronts to the public and preserve the valley's inspiring beauty and natural resources.

We commend the Town Board for its November 20, 2014, issuance of a positive declaration and commencement of a public scoping process for the proposal for a 415,000 sf water bottling facility on a 57-acre site located adjacent to the Esopus Creek in the Town of Ulster. This project will withdraw 1.75 MGD of water from municipal water supplies at full build out; discharge 342,500 gpd of "non-biologic" wastewater from the bottle formation process; generate significant traffic from bottle trucks and employees; and have numerous other potential environmental impacts, including visual impacts from multiple 65-foot tall water storage silos. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to identify and fully evaluate and mitigate all of the impacts of this proposal is vital.

However, we understand from a "Proposed SEQR Schedule" adopted by the Board on December 4, 2014, that there will be only a 30-day opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Document beginning from its anticipated submission date of December 22, 2014. A span of thirty days from December 22 to January 22, which incorporates the Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King federal holidays, is insufficient for the public to fully review and provide comments on such an important document. This additional time will also allow for affected municipalities and other agencies, whether involved or interested agencies in the SEQRA process, to hold meetings to review the Draft Scoping Document, receive input from residents and other constituents, and also submit comments. Additional time and opportunities for public participation in communities that will be impacted will allow for greater public participation and

input. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Town Board extend the comment period to at least 60 days.

In addition, with regard to the development of the Draft Scoping Document itself, we urge the Town Board to ensure that the project description, and thus the scope of the environmental review, fully addresses all aspects of this proposal, including the impact of the full build-out anticipated water withdrawal of 1.75 MGD on the City of Kingston water source, as well as impacts to other sources of water in the region that may be tapped by the applicant for bottling and distribution from this facility.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that the Town Board adopt a resolution at its regular meeting on December 18, 2014, to amend the "Proposed SEQR Schedule" to provide for a public comment period on the Draft Scoping Document of at least 60 days. This extended comment period is necessary to comply with SEQRA's requirements to provide an adequate opportunity for public participation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Friedrichsen at 845-473-4440 ext. 226, or by email at: afriedrichsen@scenichudson.org.

Sincerely,

Audrey Friedrichsen

Audrey Friedrichsen
Land Use and Environmental Advocate
Scenic Hudson, Inc.