

2 (845) 298-2000

(845) 298-2842

info@sdglaw.com

sdglaw.com

MAIN OFFICE 1136 Route 9

Wappingers Falls New York 12590

Poughkeepsie Journal Building 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 100 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

> Please direct all replies to Wappingers Falls office.

November 2, 2020

Kenneth M. Stenger

Stephen E. Diamond\*

Jessica J. Glass

Town of Wappinger Planning Board

Town Hall

20 Middlebush Road

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Albert P. Roberts

PARTNER EMERITUS

Re: Public Hearing: Gasland Petroleum Route 9D Hughsonville

Dear Chairman of the Board and Planning Board Members:

Joan F. Garrett\*\*

Ian C. Lindars

A.J. luele

Lorraine M. McGrane

Alexandria D. Weininger\*\*\*

Karen E. Hagstrom

Mary Kate Ephraim

My October 28, 2020 letter to this Board obviously struck a nerve with the applicant, resulting in the ad hominem attacks contained in Mr. Ward-Willis' letter of today's date.

Our clients have standing to oppose this project. As noted by Mr. Ward-Willis, two of them own properties within approximately a mile of this project. Our other clients, the two employees referred to by Mr. Ward-Willis, live within walking distance of this project. Because our clients have standing, their motives are irrelevant.

OF COUNSEL

Karen P. MacNish

Meghan O. Mossey

**PARALEGALS** 

Jennifer Arno

Jillian Medina

Elizabeth Amicucci

Likewise, the circumstances under which our expert was retained, and the location of their office, is equally irrelevant. However, since it was raised by Mr. Ward-Willis, the truth of the matter is many experts we contacted had a conflict because they currently work for, or have done work for, the applicant in the past. The concerns expressed by those professionals, who declined the assignment, have been confirmed by Mr. Ward-Willis' letter in which he makes clear that he has been in contact with each and every professional he thought this firm might hire. Why he undertook that effort is not as clearly presented as the exercise itself, but, one can surmise it was not undertaken out of idle curiosity.

CLOSING COORDINATORS

Maria L. Jones

Sandra A. Turner

\*ALSO ADMITTED IN FL & MA

\*\*ALSO ADMITTED IN CT

\*\*\*ALSO ADMITTED IN NJ

Mr. Ward-Willis even goes so far as to state that our clients have raised "fabricated concerns that have no basis in fact and are not supported by any reasonable interpretation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Code". That is an unfortunate and false statement. My October 28, 2020 letter quoted specific sections of the Town Code, Comprehensive Plan and case law demonstrating that the submission, as it stands, does not provide enough responsive information to support anything but the making of a positive declaration under SEQRA. It is also factual that the applicant made its submission after the deadline for tonight's meeting.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It is also wrong. Their Hudson Valley office is in Rockland County, not on Long Island.

When you strip away the vitriol in Mr. Ward-Willis' letter, there is little or nothing which addresses the glaring deficiencies in the application, which I have already noted. Tellingly, Mr. Ward-Willis' letter still fails to supply a narrative addressing the many specific and detailed architectural and historical standards set forth in the various subsections of Town of Wappinger Code §240-35.

The application remains incomplete. Based upon the record before this Board, a positive declaration under SEQRA should be determined.

Very truly yours,

STENGER, DIAMOND & GLASS, LLP

Karen E. Hagstrom/jm

KAREN E. HAGSTROM khagstrom@sdglaw.com

cc: Paul Ackermann, Esq. Nicholas Ward-Willis, Esq.