

Chenango Valley Central School District

David P. Gill
Superintendent of Schools

Stuart W. Elliott
Board of Education President



221 Chenango Bridge Road, Binghamton, NY 13901
Phone: (607) 762-6800 * FAX: (607) 762-6890
E-Mail: selliott@cvcasd.stier.org
Website: www.cvcasd.stier.org

Town of Fenton Supervisor and Town Board
44 Park Street
Port Crane, NY 13833

Gentlemen,

One of the most sacred trusts that we as members of the Chenango Valley School Board have is assuring the protection and safety of our students. With that in mind, it is the consensus of the Chenango Valley School Board to express our strong opposition to the NG Advantage natural gas compressor facility proposed to be located on the West Service Road of Route 88. The Superintendent of Schools attended a public meeting and voiced the District's opposition to this project. He also submitted two letters on behalf of the District. We write to affirm our Superintendent's position and to urge a review of the actions of the Fenton Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Specifically, we request that the decisions of the Fenton Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals be rescinded or at least held in abeyance until such time that the severe errors and irregularities that occurred during the approval process can be corrected, the numerous community concerns can be addressed and mitigated, a proper and full State Environmental Quality Review Act review be completed with a hard look, and the application with the known and unknown safety issues and neighborhood impacts are actually assessed with an appropriate level of review.

Upon information and belief, the Town of Fenton fears a law suit from NG Advantage and therefore is refusing to take steps to review this process and the irregularities that occurred and to remedy them. Such a decision is short-sighted and ignores the serious concerns of the residents and the safety risks to our students. The Town needs to reconsider its position and take into account the following:

1. The Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development, in its GML 239 response, strongly disapproved of this project citing harm to the towns and the entire county (despite claims from the planning board, all concerns have not been addressed). The response recommended denial.
2. No independent research or study was done by the town, and to our knowledge, no experts on natural gas and safety hazards were employed by the Town.
3. No environmental impact study was conducted.
4. No safety study or evacuation plan was submitted for review.
5. The Vermont NG Advantage facility has had 3 evacuations in the past year due to spill events or fires.
6. More than 100 trucks per day filled with high pressure natural gas will travel on the West Service Road which is the main artery for our school bus routes.
7. The facility is within one quarter of a mile of Port Dickinson Elementary School and three quarters of a mile from the Chenango Valley High School.
8. A major safety event at the facility could require the evacuation of both school buildings.
9. The proposed truck route will impact the already congested intersections at the entrance to the Chenango Valley High School and will likely add significant time and cost to the safe transportation of our students.
10. Procedural irregularities occurred, including but not limited to closing the public hearing prematurely- both before the GML 239 response was received from the County but also before all the public that was present was allowed an opportunity to be heard on the topic.

As our elective officials, we ask you to address the concerns raised in this letter.

Respectfully,

Stuart W. Elliott
President, Chenango Valley Board of Education