

Chenango Valley Central School District

Mr. David P. Gill
Superintendent of Schools



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May 3, 2017

Mr. Frank Evangelisti, Planning Division Director
Ms. Lora Zier, Planning Division Senior Planner
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building
60 Hawley Street, 5th Floor
PO Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902

Dear Mr. Evangelisti and Ms. Zier:

It is with grave concerns that I write you regarding the proposal from Fenton Trucking Terminal for the West Service Road in Chenango Bridge. As the Superintendent of Schools for Chenango Valley Central School District, the safety and security of our students and staff are a priority. If I understand the proposal correctly, Fenton Trucking Terminal will begin operations on the West Service Road in close proximity to our Port Dickinson Elementary School. Aside for the concern of hauling propane, a serious substance, I am also concerned with the increased traffic flow on a direct route within our district. My understanding is that during a given day throughout the school year there may be an increase in traffic of up to 50 trucks a day; 100 during the summer months. It currently can be challenging with truck traffic flow – for both our school buses and local traffic. Increased truck traffic will only exacerbate traffic issues.

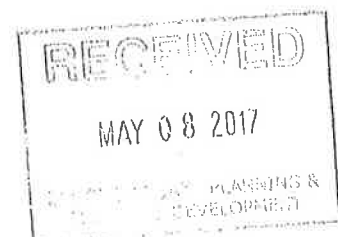
Please do not take this letter as opposition to new businesses. New business creation is important to New York, to the Town of Chenango and to the Chenango Valley Central School District. I do ask that land use approvals only be given where major impacts are mitigated, to minimize negative effects. As such, I would encourage a serious review of the traffic flows, health impacts and safety issues of the proposed business on the community, the school and the public generally.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

David P. Gill
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Mr. David Hamlin, Town of Fenton Supervisor
Mr. John Eldred, Town of Fenton Planning Board Chairperson
Mr. Dale Gregory, Town of Fenton Zoning Board Chairperson



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May 23, 2017

Mr. Frank Evangelisti, Planning Division Director
Ms. Lora Zier, Planning Division Senior Planner
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Bldg., 5th Floor
P.O. Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to reiterate and clarify the concerns as outlined in my original correspondence dated May 3, 2017 regarding the proposed Fenton Trucking Terminal on the West Service Road in Chenango Bridge. As Superintendent of Schools for Chenango Valley Central School District, the safety and security of our students and staff are a priority.

Firstly, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with NG Advantage representatives, Mr. Steve Palmer and Mr. Gerry Myers. Both gentlemen were very professional and helpful in explaining both the compressed natural gas and safety measures in place. However, it is very troubling to me that operations for the proposed Fenton Trucking Terminal on the West Service Road would be in close proximity to our school district's Port Dickinson Elementary School. Aside from the health and safety issues related to transporting compressed liquefied natural gas, I also continue to be concerned with the increased traffic flow of natural gas tanker trucks traveling on a direct route through our school district. My understanding of the NYSDOT recommended route towards the Village of Port Dickinson is that it would not satisfy the weight restrictions placed on those roads, and plans now route the tanker trailers through the intersection of Route 12A. However, this proposed transport route is a main thoroughfare and is located directly in front of the Chenango Valley Middle/High School complex. The addition of 50 to 100 or more natural gas tankers attempting to maneuver the sharp right turn from the West Service Road coupled with an even sharper turn onto the entrance ramp to Route 88 in an already heavily stressed traffic area would cause even greater vehicle congestion. It would also significantly increase safety issues for our student drivers, staff members and Transportation Department as well as the residents of our community. It is important to note that since the spring of 2012, we have already been burdened with intensified traffic due to the major reconstruction project of NY Routes 17 and 81, and this project is not slated for completion until December 2020.

Please do not construe this letter as opposition to new business in our region. Certainly, the potential creation of 150 new jobs is tremendous and very important to the state of New York, the Town of Fenton, and Chenango Valley Central School District. However, in an effort to minimize potential negative effects of this new industry, I strongly request that land use approval be granted only where major safety impacts are mitigated and that serious consideration be given to the potential impact of health and safety issues for our community, school district, and its residents.

Sincerely,

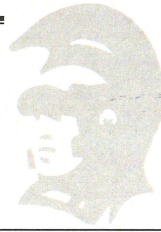
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cc: Mr. David Hamlin, Town of Fenton Supervisor
Mr. John Eldred, Town of Fenton Planning Board Chairperson
Mr. Dale Gregory, Town of Fenton Zoning Board Chairperson

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David P. Gill
Superintendent of Schools

Stuart W. Elliott
Board of Education President



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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