



July 15, 2013

The Honorable Garry A. Brown
Chairman
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Chairman Brown:

We write to express our support for the proposal by NRG Energy, Inc. to repower the Dunkirk Generating Station in Chautauqua County with a combined cycle gas turbine. In addition to providing jobs and economic activity, switching from coal to natural gas will provide low-cost, clean burning fuel that will reduce air emissions in the region and increase the efficiency of power generation.

Western Energy Alliance represents over 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas across the West. Most of our members are independent producers – small businesses with an average of twelve employees. Although we are located in the West, the natural gas produced here provides a large, domestic source of natural gas for electricity generation across the United States.

Repowering the Dunkirk plant will preserve local jobs at the site in the near-term, provide up to 500 jobs during the 36-month construction cycle, and retain more than two dozen long-term jobs after the plant is commissioned. It will also ensure a stable and predictable tax base in Chautauqua County and Dunkirk for years to come.

Use of a combined cycle gas turbine will generate dramatically cleaner energy and improve air quality in Western New York by significantly reducing the following emissions:

- Mercury reduced by 100%
- Sulfur Dioxide reduced by 99%
- Nitrogen Oxides reduced by 98%
- Particulates reduced by 83%
- Greenhouse gases reduced by 73%

Repowering the plant will improve reliability by alleviating the need for many costly transmission upgrades and create a best-in-class electricity generation resource for Western NY. The combined cycle technology increases efficiency by using units that can ramp up quickly and “load follow” as demand rises and falls on the system, and it will provide support for other renewable generation assets, especially wind power in Western New York. The intermittent nature of wind resources can be a challenge for Western New

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York grid operators, and the repowered Dunkirk natural gas plant will help stabilize the grid when wind resources are unpredictable.

Our member companies have tapped into the abundant supply of natural gas in the United States and can provide fuel for electricity generation for many decades to come. U.S. natural gas production has increased by 4 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) since 2007,¹ and the Potential Gas Committee estimates we have a 110 year supply at current consumption rates.² We encourage the Public Service Commission to approve the repowering of the Dunkirk Generating Station with clean, abundant and affordable domestic natural gas.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sgamma
Vice President, Government and Public Affairs

CC: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
The Honorable Patricia L. Acampora
The Honorable Gregg C. Sayre
The Honorable Maureen F. Harris
The Honorable James L. Larocca
The Honorable Catharine Young
The Honorable Andy Goodell

¹ [U.S. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production in Federal and Non-Federal Areas](#), Marc Humphries, Congressional Research Service, February 28, 2013.

² [Potential Gas Committee Report](#), Potential Gas Committee, Dec. 2012.