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Statement on Sloatsburg water

6 messages

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**Comments for the December 4 Hearing on Sterling Forest
Casino****Water Quality Impact to the Suffern Field if the Casino is Built**

[1]

Good evening. My name is Edith Knoblick and I live in
Sloatsburg NY.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Sterling Forest Resort Casino that is before the Town of Tuxedo Board did not address several issues that are important to the residents of Sloatsburg, Rockland County. Among these issues is the potential threat to the water quality of Sloatsburg's water supply if the casino is built. Sloatsburg obtains its water from the United Water well field located along the Ramapo River.

Its wells are hydraulically connected to the Ramapo River, meaning that some of the river flow recharges the wells. This is especially true during drought. Most of the water that is produced by the well field originates as river flow. Drought is quite common in the Ramapo River watershed. Drought warnings occur, on average about every three years, while drought emergencies occur on average about every five years. Thus, it is often the case that the wells are fundamentally comprised of mostly Ramapo River flow.

During times of low rainfall, the Ramapo River is made up of mostly wastewater. In fact, during extreme drought, the river is nearly all wastewater. Consequently, the well field is pumping mostly treated wastewater during these periods.

Approval of the proposed Sterling Forest Resort Casino will exacerbate these conditions. The casino will reduce freshwater inflow to the Ramapo River. Hence, the freshwater/wastewater ratio will be reduced at the well field. This will mean that the wells will be pumping wastewater at an increased frequency, and it will be at higher concentrations.

The well field is not equipped to treat surface water, especially surface water that is comprised primarily of wastewater. The potential appears to be quite great that additional water treatment infrastructure may be needed in the future to ensure that the drinking water quality standards are met.

This impact was not even mentioned in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is recommended that the Town Board require the applicant for the Sterling Forest Resort Casino to thoroughly estimate how its water supply requirements will affect Sloatsburg's water quality. This analysis should not be limited to the effects of the casino only. The casino's effects should be assessed with other existing effects to the Ramapo River, as well as the potential effects of other recently proposed development in the Ramapo River watershed. The Town Board should not be making a decision in a vacuum.