

November 16, 2009

To: Honorable Kevin J. Casutto & Honorable Jeffrey E. Stockholm,
Administrative Law Judges

Subject: Public Statement Hearing on the Proposed Transmission Line and
Upstate NY Power Corp's (UNYPC's) Hounsfield Wind Farm on Galloo
Island

Fr: Robert Ashodian, Chairperson, Henderson Harbor Area Chamber of
Commerce – Economic Development Committee

The most recent locating of the transmission lines for the Galloo Island project is in complete violation of the intent, vision and goals for the Town of Henderson as described in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Town of Henderson. This plan was developed with the joint participation of representatives from the Henderson Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Jefferson County Planning and the cooperation of others from the community over several years. Surveys were taken, public forums were held and a very careful examination was made of the resources of this community. The Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2004.

The Comprehensive Plan pointed out the many scenic resources of the community and the sweeping views of the Lake, harbors, farm fields and other spectacular views. Those natural resources are at the heart of the economic survival of this community. The Comprehensive Plan identified historic structures and landmarks such as the Thomas Dobson House.

The Comprehensive Plan identified the most likely areas for residential development, for residential and small mixed uses, and for agricultural and rural residential use.

The Comprehensive Plan also identified and mapped a zone of priority character. An area because of its proximity to the shore line of Lake Ontario and Henderson Bay was deserving of special focus and attention to preserve the character of this community. Those areas are specifically identified as the "Corridor Overlay District". See page 52 of the Comprehensive Plan and the areas on the chart identified as the Corridor Overlay Zone. This zone includes the area approximately 2,000 feet back from our shoreline, areas worth protecting back 2,000 feet from key highways that run near that shore line, the Seaway Trail, the center of the Town of Henderson and Crystal Lake.

This area, especially along the shoreline represents the currently most valuable property and the most likely to be developed in the future.

We find it absolutely incredulous that the proposed transmission line goes directly through the Corridor Overlay Zone. The current mapping shows the transmission line coming ashore on the north face of Stony Point, across the Zone. Across prime agricultural and rural residential land and back to the Corridor Overlay Zone where it does not simply cross the Zone, but follows it lengthwise passing close by Whites Bay, marinas, the Town's boat launching facility, by properties just now beginning to see residential and other development. These are the areas of highest development potential and the most likely to be the recipients of water and sewer. The proposed transmission line continues through the very center of the overlay zone that includes the Seaway Trail.

We see no reference to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Town of Henderson in any of the documentation provided. We have to conclude that the long term land use plan was never considered, never reviewed, never even looked at.

If it had been looked at it would appear that overt steps were taken to specifically run the transmission line directly through as much of the town's most valuable properties as possible. We are appalled that such a plan has come so far in total disregard for this community.

We ask that the Public Service Commission make a thorough review of the content of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Town of Henderson and the relevance of that document for any proposed siting of the transmission line. We ask that the entire routing process be re-evaluated. We ask that no routings include the violation of the Corridor Overlay Zone.

Sincerely,

Robert Ashodian, Chairperson, HHACC-Economic Development Committee

Attachment: Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Town of Henderson