

DOCKET NUMBER I5303-000

July 19, 2023

The Honorable Willie Phillips, Jr., Chairman
The Honorable James Danly, Commissioner
The Honorable Allison Clements, Commissioner
The Honorable Mark Christie, Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street North East
Washington, DC 20426

RE: DOCKET NUMBER I5303-000 FERC APPLICATION BY YORK ENERGY STORAGE LLC FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PUMP STORAGE PROJECT AT CUFFS RUN ON THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Chairman Phillips and Commissioners Danly, Clements, and Christie:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and elected officials, we respectfully ask that you deny the proposal filed by York Energy Storage, LLC to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on February 6, 2023 docket number 15303-000. The proposal seeks to run a feasibility study for a 1.8-mile-long dam and power turbine pump storage facility along the Lower Susquehanna River at Cuff's Run in York County, Pennsylvania. This \$2.1 billion project will flood 588 acres of a protected landscape rich with natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Previously proposed and withdrawn three times, a lot has changed since the last time a pump storage dam application was submitted and scrapped for Cuff's Run in the 1990s. The landscape of the lower Susquehanna River gorge has been recognized by both state and federal governments as a landscape worthy of protection and investment. In the last 10 years over \$100 million has been invested by county, state, federal governments, as well as nonprofit partners and local municipalities along the river, growing a thriving outdoor recreation and tourism economy - an economy that will be threatened by yet another power generation facility on this stretch of one of the world's most ancient rivers.

This proposed project would destroy preserved farms, a regional scenic trail, and forested lands much needed to help protect the ecological health of this landscape and waterway. The proposed York Energy Storage, LLC project will irrevocably damage the most pristine section of the lower Susquehanna that remains without major railroads, industry, or housing—it is the last bit of nature left on the river and we believe it is worth fighting for.

We understand the need for renewable energy solutions, but this project is not green. Clearing away carbon storing biodiverse forests and powering pumps with energy from a grid mostly powered by natural gas and coal to fill an ecologically dead reservoir is not the answer. We believe that studies and

research will show that other alternatives exist to power a renewable future that do not cause more harm than good for our community and region.

Thank you for considering our request to deny the proposal by York Energy Storage LLC and to respect the decades of hard work and investment to preserve our unique landscape, protect our natural resources, and grow a thriving outdoor tourism economy that will support our community for generations to come.

Submitted respectfully,

Cuff's Run Alliance
Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County
Lancaster Conservancy
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association
Susquehanna National Heritage Area
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
City of Lancaster
Keystone Trails Association
Lancaster Farmland Trust
Mason-Dixon Trail System
PennFuture
Penns Valley Conservation Association
Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, 28th District, Pennsylvania State Senate
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Watershed Alliance of York
WeConservePA

(list as of 7/18/2023)