

Slate Hill power plant plan drawing support

Valley Energy Center hosts briefing

By [Heather Yakin](#)

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SLATE HILL — Dozens of people showed Thursday night for an open house for the proposed Valley Energy Center.

Competitive Power Ventures has proposed building the 630 megawatt power plant on Route 6. CPV has filed its draft environmental impact statement for the project, or DEIS. The open house was an effort to reach out to the public before a public hearing on the draft.

Thursday's crowd at Wawayanda Town Hall was curious, but mostly friendly toward the proposal.

"We're here to find out how the plant is going to affect us without jobs," said Anthony DiMatteo of Middletown, a union electrical worker. "With new construction comes jobs."

"Things are really slow for us now," said Mike Gerlach of Otisville, a fellow International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers member. "We're willing to look at any work that's out there."

On the other side of the room, a pair of boilermakers chatted.

"They said they're going to hire local unions, trades," said Harry Hamilton of Wawayanda. "It's combined cycle, and that's about the cleanest fossil fuel generation we've got."

Jeanne and Jerry Doty of New Hampton gave the proposal a positive review.

"I really hope it goes," Jeanne Doty said.

"I think it'll help with the tax base in the town. I think we need something like this," Jerry Doty said.

Jeff Johnson of New Hampton grilled a CPV representative on emergency response plans, and what CPV would do to build up fire services. The rep told him CPV will work with the local firefighters to develop the emergency plan and make sure they know the facility.

"I want to know what's going to be for the infrastructure of our area," Johnson said. "I want to know what you're going to add to it."

CPV's public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. April 8 at Wawayanda Town Hall.

To see the DEIS: online, go to www.cpvvalley.com or see copies at Wallkill or Wawayanda town halls, Middletown City Hall or Thrall or Goshen libraries.

hyakin@th-record.com