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Hon. Rory M. Christian
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
New York State Department of Public Service
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, New York, 12223

Hon. Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, New York, 12223

April 21, 2025

Re: Opposition to Request for Extension: Case # 23-E-0421 (Hecate Grid Swiftsure, LLC)

Dear Chairman Christian & Secretary Phillips:

We hope this letter finds you well. We writing today on behalf of my constituents, the residents of Travis in Staten Island, to strongly oppose Hecate Grid Swiftsure LLC's request for a six-month extension to file a decommissioning plan and cost estimate for its proposed 650 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), which is a requirement upon the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) which was done in June of 2024.

The entire purpose of granting this certificate was to authorize Hecate to operate under a lesser regulatory burden, effectively reducing vital oversight in exchange for compliance with law in a timely matter and transparent operations. Instead, HecateGrid is seeking to weaponize that certificate to become even less transparent with the very community the Swiftsure project threatens.

To make matters worse, to my knowledge, every representative who was originally introduced to Staten Islanders as part of Hecate's team have since severed their employment. Under current leadership, they have consistently refused to engage with the community in good faith, leaving residents with no reliable point of contact and no clarity about what's happening behind the scenes.

This project has been met with unwavering community opposition. Since the start, residents have raised serious concerns about its safety, long-term oversight, and potential environmental risks that have become evident from other sites like this which spiraled into disaster, including in Warwick, New York. From the time we became aware of this project nearly two years ago, we have yet to come across a single person who truly supports this project, outside of those who have financial incentive to do so. It is especially alarming that the developer is now requesting

more time to submit a basic, legally required plan that was due within 90 days of the CPCN. If Hecate is unable to meet its obligations at this early stage, how can the PSC or the public be expected to trust them to manage safety and deliver results once this massive site is built?

Delays in regulatory compliance set a dangerous precedent, at a time when these unproven and dangerous sites deserve the most scrutiny. The PSC imposed these deadlines, with the mandate of the legislature to ensure transparency, safety, preparedness, and public accountability. The decommissioning plan/cost estimate are not optional, nor should they be taken lightly. They are legal safeguards meant to protect communities and ensure the company can responsibly wind down operations when it is inevitably needed. Allowing HecateGrid to delay this process further completely undermines public trust and sends the message that project developers can sidestep expectations without consequence. This is especially important when our communities feel a deep sense of betrayal that their voices, concerns, and rightful fears have been totally ignored in the commission of this totally reckless program.

Given the deeply rooted safety concerns, the ongoing lack of clarity, the developers failure to adequately engage with our community, and their failure to comply with basic requirements, we respectfully urge the Commission to promptly deny the request for an extension and terminate this project in its entirety.

The residents of Staten Island deserve and demand its community “partners” meet their obligations, communicate openly/honestly, and deliver on-time results, regardless of the type of project. They certainly do not deserve one that seeks repeated delays while asking for our trust in managing an extremely dangerous facility.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and your commitment to public safety and accountability. We look forward to your response.

Best,



Sam Pirozzolo
New York State Assemblyman, 63rd District



Andrew Lanza
New York State Senator, 24th District



Michael Reilly
New York State Assemblyman, 62nd District



David Carr
New York City Councilman, 50th District