

This project is Too large, is massively flawed and needs to be reworked.

I think it is important to note that this project is repeatedly called the arena project or the islander arena project but that is not entirely accurate. The public relations for this project was genius. It was all about the islanders. It sort of changes the flavor of any opposition to anti-islander BUT The idea that this is about the islanders is ludicrous. This project is vastly larger than just an arena. It is an arena PLUS a hotel PLUS a mega mall.

It's been continuously expanding in scope with the minimal amount of explanation and study possible in order to appear compliant.

Energy - an article released by Politico, today, makes 3 main points:

1- A National Grid rep said last November "Supplying firm service (365 days) for this Project is contingent on the successful and timely approval and permitting of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline Project (NESE), A(NOTHER) controversial project expected to provide a guaranteed natural gas supply for the the Belmont Park project

- National Grid has said the pipeline is crucial to support growing natural gas demand in New York City and Long Island.

2 -Mr Sterne was quoted as saying: "Belmont can move forward without the pipeline and the alternative is definitely not oil, as we're exploring all clean energy and renewable options."

-BUT No other options were mentioned in the DEIS

3- Gov Cuomo's commitment to green energy demands he block the pipeline project.

- We don't have an answer on this.

Where will the rest of us be when this project uses all the available resources?

We don't have an answer on this, highlighting again how this project is massively flawed and needs to be fixed.

Economics

Local businesses could most assuredly gain from an influx of visitors to the area.

In particular, we've heard from some of our neighbors in Elmont that they welcome the economic growth. So do I.

But - this project is massive, and it is geared to bring people on to the campus of Belmont state park and KEEP them there.

At the current scale, Patrons will not be stopping in at local bakeries or restaurants, they will be doing those things on the Belmont campus. Hempstead turnpike, tulip Ave, Jericho Tpke - all the local businesses could thrive with a reasonably sized project, but not with one of this magnitude. People will be relieved just to arrive there - or to finally make it out of a parking lot.

The promise of local growth is not likely as the project stands now

Which brings up the final point - the traffic experience of visitors.

- Many have spoken of what the traffic will do to local neighborhoods' quality of life

-But how is it conceivable that a project this large, drawing what the developers hope will be at least 47,000 people daily can be sustainable? After a times of sitting for hours on the Cross Island or local roads... What makes you think they'll come back.

-I can't foresee the long term success of this. As it is stands now, I fail to see the benefit of this project in the long term for anyone in the immediate vicinity.

Bernadette Smith