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[Proposed Hotel at Smithtown’s Watermill Will Get Environmental Impact Study](#)

The Smithtown Town Council voted 5-0 in favor of an environmental impact study for a proposed four-story hotel at the site of the Watermill catering venue. For months, many Smithtown residents have been calling on the council to reject the proposed 130-room hotel – citing pollution, traffic congestion and sewage problems as their main reasons. "There are a number of potentially significant environmental impacts associated with this proposed hotel," says Russell Barnett, of the Smithtown Environment & Waterways Department.

A memo from the department warned that the proposal could have significant impacts on groundwater, traffic and sewage treatment. The issue is that there are hundreds of homes in a high groundwater area where their cesspools and septic system are in groundwater. Those septic systems create an environmental impact on what is known as the North-East branch of the Nissequogue River. Environmental officials recommended a formal environmental impact study under the state and environmental quality review act, which the Town Council agreed to do.

[Governor Cuomo Threatens to Revoke National Grids Certificate to Operate Over Moratorium on Gas Hookups](#)

Governor Cuomo was firm in his message to National Grid, "Provide Gas or Lose Your License!" The Governor threatened to pull the plug on the energy giant if it does not cooperate with state officials seeking answers about its recent moratorium on natural gas hookups and its battle over a natural gas pipeline. For months, National Grid has denied service to new and returning customers as the state Department of Environmental Conservation rejected a permit for a controversial pipeline slated to run across New York Harbor. New Jersey also denied a permit for the project. National Grid placed a moratorium on natural gas hookups earlier this year, claiming it couldn't keep up with demand for gas

service after the state denied a permit for a new pipeline slated to run under New York Harbor from Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, November 12, the governor gave the company two weeks to rectify the situation or the state will begin the formal process of revoking the utility's license to operate its downstate natural gas system. The Governor stated, "The fact that National Grid has consumers in a position whereby National Grid gets what it wants or consumers are punished is unconscionable. A utility does not have license to harm customers because it believes it has an irrevocable franchise and is immune from effective regulatory oversight. I will not allow that situation to continue." The National Grid New York president John Bruckner defended the company's actions and said without the added pipeline the utility's hands are tied.

Stay tuned....