

## Fortistar North Tonawanda - PSC Comments - Suggestions

The Public Service Commission (PSC) must determine whether this proposed project is in the public interest. The PSC has the authority to approve or disapprove the sale of the Fortistar energy plant to Digihost for Bitcoin/cryptocurrency mining based on whether the project is in the public interest. Here are some points you can use to make the case that Digihost's plans to run the Fortistar energy plant in North Tonawanda for Cryptocurrency mining is **not in the public interest. Choose what resonates for you. It is helpful to put these ideas in your own words and add a personal note on why this matters to you.**

**Comments to the Public Service Commission are due by October 12, 2021. They may be submitted online: [Here](https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=21-M-0238&CaseSearch=Search)**  
**<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=21-M-0238&CaseSearch=Search>**

**Or emailed to: [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov)**

**Or mailed to:**

**New York Department of Public Service Commission  
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350**

Begin your comments with a statement like this clarifying that you oppose this project:

I write to you as a resident of (place) in opposition to the Petition of Fortistar North Tonawanda Inc. and Digihost International Inc. for Digihost to purchase the Fortistar North Tonawanda power plant as not in the public interest.

**Here are some ideas for points you can make to explain why you oppose the project:**

Climate change - noncompliance with NY's climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

Fortistar currently runs as a gas fired plant about 20 days per year as a supplemental energy source. Digihost proposes to convert this plant to a Bitcoin mining operation that would run continuously, 365 days per year.

This would cause:

- Noncompliance with NY's climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) by causing major increases in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Digihost's cryptocurrency mining operation would take NY backwards from our goal of 85% reduction of GHG emissions by 2050. This is not in the public interest.
  - Digihost now claims in their August 26 supplemental letter to PSC that they will use renewable natural gas and that this will not emit GHG's. Burning any form of methane emits CO2 and methane itself is a highly potent GHG. It is disturbing that a company that claims to be competent and capable of compliance with NY climate mandates doesn't know that burning gas emits CO2, whether the gas is 'renewable' or fracked.
  - Digihost claims that within a year of operation, they will then switch to renewable energy - wind, solar and hydro. What is the source of this renewable energy and shouldn't these renewable source be used for New York's commitment to transition our energy usage from fossil fuels, not for Bitcoin mining?
  - Then by 2025 Digihost now claims they will switch to hydrogen - green hydrogen is not even currently available and is highly controversial with the process using more energy to produce than it yields.
- Increased neighborhood noise pollution
- Increased toxic pollution in a neighborhood that has historically been unduly burdened with industrial impacts. Mining Bitcoin 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year will significantly increase emissions of nitrous oxide, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

- Bitcoin mining full-time will also use and heat tremendous amounts of water. The Fortistar North Tonawanda facility plans to use 500,000 gallons of water per day, which will account for approximately 12% of the City's current total water usage. This is not in the public interest.
- Profit for a few with too many impacts for residents - the greatly expanded operation of the Fortistar plant, will place the burden of pollution, noise and resulting impact on climate change on the community. No new electricity will go to the grid. Digihost's proposal for cryptocurrency mining in North Tonawanda is for the financial gain of the company and its shareholders at the expense of the health and well being of the community. This is not in the public interest.