

## A Mother's Day Rally in Albany on May 14, 1978

This is a critical year for the safe energy movement in New York State. The Carey Administration and the utilities are pushing for goals which, if obtained, would determine energy policies and energy programs for years to come. Their strategy is to pay lip-service to safe energy alternatives and public opinion while taking steps to guarantee the expansion of nuclear power and a centralized high-voltage transmission grid.

This year the people of New York are faced with an energy battle on many fronts.

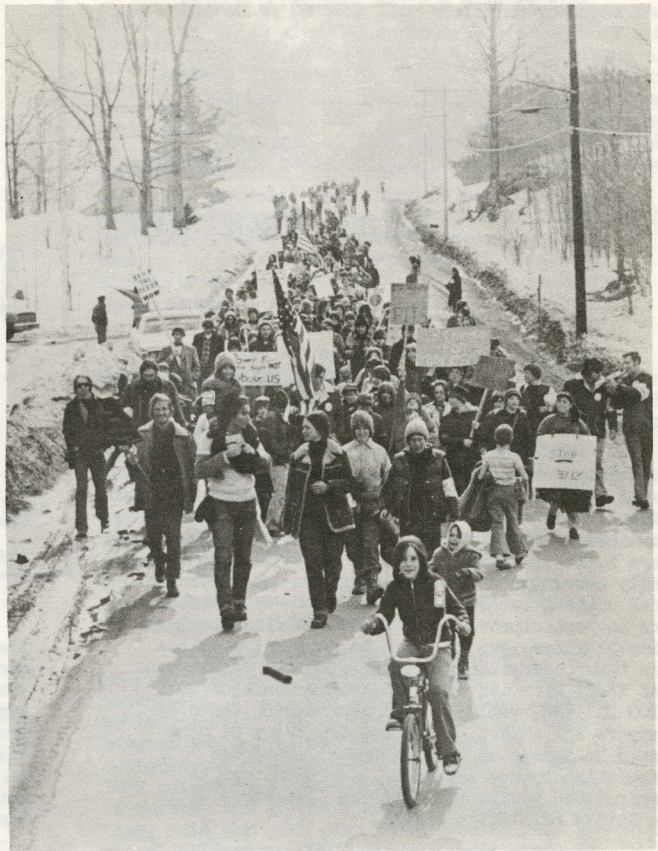
1) While making nice-sounding election year statements about his concern with the dangers of nuclear power, Governor Carey has introduced an Energy Program Bill which reads as if it was designed to meet the desires of the utilities. Under the Governor's program, an Energy Council would develop a fifteen-year Energy Plan. Once the Plan was established, public interest groups would not be allowed to challenge the need for any project in a hearing before the Public Service Commission. This would, in effect, extend PASNY's exemption from having to prove need to all utility companies. The utilities would not be required to examine alternatives to their projects. The Public Service Commission would be permitted to decide on a particular type of power plant and its location before any public hearings are held. Citizen participation in crucial energy decisions would be even more restricted than it is today.

2) The utilities are seeking the creation of a monster corporation called Empire State Power Resources, Inc. ESPRI would pool the resources of the utilities to construct energy facilities. Construction costs would be passed along to ratepayers without PSC approval. The end result would be that the utilities would be even further protected from having to answer to the people of New York.

3) The Federal Department of Energy is looking for a site in New York for a regional radioactive waste-disposal facility. New Yorkers would then not only be faced with the storage and transportation hazards of nuclear waste created in New York, but would have to deal with waste shipped in from other states.

4) The Public Service Commissioners' decision on the Fort Covington-Marcy 765 kV line is expected in the early summer. This could be the final approval which PASNY needs to expose North Country residents to the power-line which the PSC staff and the Department of Environmental Conservation agree would have harmful biological effects.

Because of these developments, the kV Alliance has called for a united demonstration against 765 kV lines and nuclear power. The kV Alliance, a coalition of over 30 safe energy groups throughout the state, is sponsoring a rally to be held on the Capital steps in Albany



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on Mother's Day, May 14. Mother's Day was chosen to symbolize concern for future generations whose well-being is threatened by the practices of PASNY and the other utilities.

The Mother's Day Rally will feature music and speeches by energy activists. Louise Young, author of Power Over People, the first book to expose the dangers of ultra-high voltage transmission lines, has agreed to attend. On the Monday after the rally, an intensive lobbying effort will be made among the legislators and public agencies.

The Rally will follow world-wide demonstrations against nuclear power, to be held on May 1, and will kick off the summer safe energy campaign in New York. Everyone who can get to Albany is urged to attend.

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