

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

-----X

April 18, 2012  
Start: 11:08 a.m.  
Recess: 11:40 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JAMES F. GENNARO  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin

1  
2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: Good  
3 morning. As everybody knows, I am not James  
4 Gennaro, but since the Chair can't be here, he  
5 asked me to temporary chair the meeting, and I'm  
6 pleased to do so and welcome my colleagues: Steve  
7 Levin, Elizabeth Crowley and Brad Lander, who are  
8 here as well. I'll read the statement into the  
9 record that Councilman Gennaro left. We're here to  
10 vote on Intro No. 534-A, a local law in relation  
11 requiring the Department of Environmental  
12 Protection undertaking assessment of the  
13 electricity generation capacity of the city's  
14 water supply, wastewater treatment, and bodies of  
15 water within the city's jurisdiction. New York  
16 State ranks third in hydropower producing states  
17 according to the Energy Information Administration  
18 and its hydroelectric power generation is the  
19 highest of any state east of the Rockies, but New  
20 York City has yet to fully utilize hydropower  
21 electricity generation potential or exists  
22 [phonetic] as a result of city owned water utility  
23 system infrastructure - - on its upstate  
24 reservoirs, rivers and streams that it controls  
25 and its 14 city-owned sewage treatment plants. New

1  
2 York City manages the water supply that provides a  
3 billion gallons a day of water to residents in New  
4 York City and other nearby areas. The water is  
5 delivered from a watershed located 125 miles away  
6 and is delivered almost entirely by gravity, New  
7 York City watershed includes 19 reservoirs, 3  
8 controlled lakes along 7,000 miles of water mains,  
9 tunnels and aqueducts which deliver water to city  
10 residents and businesses. The water utility  
11 infrastructure also includes 7400 miles of sewer  
12 lines, which take waste water to the city's 14  
13 sewage treatment plants. While no specific  
14 assessment of New York City's hydropower potential  
15 has been undertaken by the Idaho National  
16 Laboratory, the entity charged with analyzing  
17 America's hydropower resources by the United  
18 States Department of Energy according to a 1998  
19 assessment of undeveloped hydroelectric power in  
20 New York State 25% of undeveloped hydroelectric  
21 power is located in the Hudson River Valley.  
22 Proposed Intro 534-A requires the Department of  
23 Environmental Protection to undertake a resource  
24 assessment of the city's potable water supply and  
25 wastewater treatment systems and the natural

1  
2 bodies of water within the city's jurisdiction to  
3 determine the potential of subsystems in bodies of  
4 water for generating electricity. Proposed Intro  
5 No. 534-A also requires the Department to conduct  
6 a technological review of - - and free flow  
7 hydropower technologies that are appropriate for  
8 the pressure on water flow rates for each site  
9 identified in the resource assessment and an  
10 economic analysis to determine economic viability  
11 of generating electricity for each site identified  
12 in the resource assessment. Finally, proposed  
13 Intro 534-A requires that the resource assessment  
14 technology review and economic analysis shall be  
15 completed within 18 months of the effective date  
16 of the section and that the results of the  
17 resource assessment be submitted to the mayor and  
18 the council. Renewable energy solutions such as  
19 hydropower are part of New York City's future, but  
20 only if we envision a clean a more sustainable  
21 future and act on that vision. As a step in that  
22 direction, I recommend that the Committee vote for  
23 this important piece of legislation. Do any of my  
24 colleagues have any comments they want to make at  
25 this point?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: - - the  
Chairman's - - important - - this bill to this  
point.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: - - Oh  
yes. We have been joined by Councilman Vallone. -  
- call the roll. So we have an acting chair, yes.  
So if there are no further comments by anyone we  
will call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,  
Committee Clerk, roll call in the Committee on  
Environmental Protection Intro 534-A. Council  
Member Koppell?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By vote of five  
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members,

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

please sign the Committee report.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: thank  
you everybody.

[background conversation]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

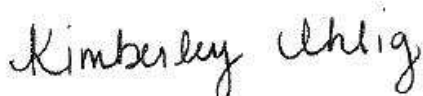
CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: - - . - -

this hearing is hereby adjourned.

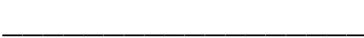
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Date 5/1/12

Handwritten date 5/1/12, written over a double horizontal line.