MARCH 17, 2019

Philipstown Planning Board

238 Main Street, P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516 Re: Garrison Gulf Gas Pump Canopy & Used Car Lot Application

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

We, the members of the Garrison Hamlet Association, are writing to express our concerns regarding the application presented by Garrison Gulf gas station on January 22, 2019. Given that the property is adjacent to an historic, public school, an historic church, and wetlands, and is within direct view of at least fifteen homes and two parks, we want to be sure that due process is given to the review of this plan. We want to know that the rights and well-being of the neighboring residents and institutions will be strictly enforced and protected. We would like further examination of the issues described in this letter and outlined as follows:

- 1. Groundwater Contamination
- 2. Designated Historic & Scenic Zones
- 3. Safety & Quality of Life

The currently proposed application, plan, and supporting documents contain information that is false, is out of character for this neighborhood, or needs further clarification, as we will now describe.

GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

The applicant claims in the application that there was never a spill on the site. Spill incident #8707110 in the NYSDEC database shows that there was and that ground water was contaminated with gasoline and MTBE. The latest information we have suggests a chance that excavation in the proposed area could cause the groundwater to be contaminated again. The image and table below show that the monitoring well closest to the proposed excavation

area had contamination levels well above clean-up standards shortly before the spill case was closed in 2010. At that time the testing agency recommended closing the case to the DEC, with the caveats that it does not meet standards and that sampling frequency be reduced to semiannually (see Appendix B). The primary reason given was that the VOC plume seemed immobile and confined to the property. We've seen no evidence that any further sampling or mitigation was performed in that area.

The applicant did not specify the depth to the water table. The average depth during the tests shown here was 4.7 feet. The planned excavation for the



Contaminant Sample Tests for Monitoring Well #1 (ppb)

canopy footers is 5 feet, so there is a very good chance that the groundwater level would be breached. The groundwater flow direction was determined to be to the north, toward a stream and wetlands. If excavation were to disturb contaminated soil, those contaminants could then leach into the groundwater. We demand that there would be DEC oversight and testing done to

From date of vacuum extraction suspension to last available sample date Exceeds clean-up standard

Standard level	1	5	5	5			10
Test Date	Benzene	Toluene	Ethylbenzene	Xylenes	Total BTEX	Total VOC	MtBE
5/2/2007	24	5.6	841	1133	2004	3805	55
8/28/2007	16	<1.0	77	20	114	240	55
11/29/2007	4.9	<1.0	121	36	161	455	8.4
2/7/2008	12	1.4	523	214	750	1714	8.8
5/28/2008	26	<1.0	78	23	127	322	66
12/30/2008	17	1.7	374	119	512	1245	9.9
2/19/2009	33	2.5	534	271	841	1825	22
5/21/2009	43	1.1	120	21	185	391	38
9/23/2009	16	<1.0	212	20	248	747	11
11/17/2009	24	2.8	462	235	724	1470	14
Average	22	2.5	334	209	567	1221	29
Average	22	2.5	554	209	507	1221	

ensure that never happens again.

The applicant claims that there are no adjacent wetlands when in fact there are. The regulated wetland adjacent to the site is Philipstown Wetland Number 38. Residents here frequently clean garbage out of that wetland. The bottle of cleaning solution shown in the image below-left was recently found in the stream that runs along the project site and through the wetlands. Containers for automotive fluids have also been found there. There are currently several tires, a

pickup truck cap, and other rubbish discarded along the bank of the stream, some of which is shown in the image to the right. Great care must be taken, and environmental laws must be strictly enforced, in order to prevent further pollution of the stream and wetlands, especially since the applicant's operations deal with so many dangerous materials less than 100 feet away.



DESIGNATED HISTORIC & SCENIC ZONES

Numerous errors on the Environmental Assessment Form indicate a failure to assess the impact of the proposed projects on nearby scenic and cultural treasures. The applicant denies that the site is within a coastal area, but it is in an area regulated by the NYS Coastal Management Program. Within that, Policy 24 provides for the designation and protection of Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance. The applicant failed to mention that the site is within such an area, as designated by 19 CRR-NY 602.5.ⁱ This law's policies state, "impairment of a landscape's scenic quality can occur … through the addition of structures which reduce views or are discordant with the landscape because of their inappropriate scale, form, or construction materials." And Route 9D has been designated as a Scenic Byway under Article 49 of New York's Environmental Conservation Law.ⁱⁱ

The question asking whether the project site is near a building on the National Register of Historic Places was answered "No". Garrison Gulf is contiguous to St. Philip's Church, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The church building is 300 feet away, with direct views of the gas station. Its cemetery is even closer. Buried there are some of Philipstown's earliest settlers and most prominent residents, including the church's designer, Richard Upjohn. Garrison Union Free School is also listed on that register. It is significant as a distinctive example of educational architecture in the Hudson Highlands and embodies the characteristics of a type and method of construction typical in this region. The school is adjacent to the gas station, and its playground, which was purposely positioned there to welcome children in our community while driving by, is 350 away.

The question asking whether the project site is within 5 miles of a publicly accessible scenic or aesthetic resource, such as a state or local park, was incorrectly answered "No". The summits of North Reboubt (OSI and NYS) and South Reboubt (Garrison School) parks are 2,000 feet and 2,400 feet, respectively, to the east. They are both clearly visible from the gas station. Both parks have sweeping vistas of the Hudson River from summit ruins of two Revolutionary War forts and are connected by the historic Cannon Road. Garrison Gulf sits visibly in the foreground of these vistas.

This all serves to demonstrate that the impact of out-of-character commercial activity and discordant structures must be considered as degrading resources of the highest value for their contribution to scenery and the quality of life.

The images to the right show the proposed canopy design and a similar canopy in Cortlandt Manor. The design is very out of character with our neighborhood. It also appears there are plans to illuminate parts of the canopy. The description of outdoor lighting in the application is unclear at best. If construction of a canopy were to be approved, it should be required to use architectural designs and materials that are more appropriate.





The shingled canopies at the Appalachian Market in Garrison and Sunoco in Cold Spring, while not great, are two local examples of structures slightly more suited to this area. The two images shown here are of a Gulf station in Bridgehampton and a Mobil station in Hopewell Junction. The Gulf station in particular shows how it is possible to build such structures with some class and more in tune with our surroundings.



SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

There are many hazards for pedestrian residents and school children along this stretch, as well as for drivers. The proposed used car dealership could increase those hazards. There are numerous distractions, obstructions, and ingress-egress points that make the stretch of Rt. 9D in this neighborhood dangerous.ⁱⁱ It would also be right next to one of the main entrances of Garrison School and a bus stop. The issue of used cars being test-driven on Nelson Lane is already a reality. This is currently occurring illegally, causing disturbance to the residents. Those occurrences could increase if this plan is approved.

We are constantly struggling against the perception that this neighborhood is a commercial zone, where anything goes. It is not. The Hamlet Mixed-Use zone that is sandwiched between Hamlet Residential and Rural Conservation zones should not be interpreted as a commercial hub or catchall. A major portion of the properties within the mixed-use zone consists of homes, a church, two schools, and undeveloped open space.

Many homes surrounding Garrison Gulf have direct lines of sight to the building, as shown in the image to the right. Any unsightliness and outdoor lighting is easily seen. The parked cars and the canopy would be clearly visible from all of those locations. Additional signage and lighting, as specified in the plan, would worsen what is already an eyesore.

A large gas-price sign, a flashing lottery sign, a beer sign, and an ATM sign are all illuminated well into the night and sometimes overnight. Combined with the overhead

lamps, enough light trespasses onto surrounding properties to be quite annoying. Some of these signs and lights are shown in the images to the right and on the next page. There are also at least four Gulf signs and two tire signs. No mention is made in the plan about how the used cars would be advertised. The ones currently being sold, illegally, sometimes have prices written on the windows. This cannot possibly comply with our zoning codes 175-39 and 175-40-L.

The application does not specify any change in the number of parking spaces. Instead it states, "Currently, the cars either under repair or completed are awaiting pick-up and are parked in an existing paved area in front of





the premises to the north of the gas pumps. The cars to be offered for sale would be placed in this area, with the 'repair' vehicles simply moved to the rear of the building, within a fenced area." This would equate to more cars parked in the back on unpaved surface in various states of repair, possibly leaking hazardous substances. Other than the recent violation the owner received from the code enforcement officer, there is nothing preventing the unregistered vehicles that are currently on the site from being parked as they propose. Yet as of this writing, there are still two parked along Rt. 9D and one next to the building, as shown in these images. If this activity is happening while the business has been given a violation notice and ordered to stop, why should we believe that it would stop if the change-ofuse application is approved? And what would prevent the current or future owners from converting the entire site into a used-car lot?

The sheer number of false and incomplete statements in the application (see Appendix A) shows disregard for the surrounding neighborhood and the town's zoning laws. That combined with the illegal car sales over a period of years, even after being served with a violation notice, makes us afraid that approval of the plan would reward such behavior and further degrade our community, rather than enhance it.





The welfare of the neighbors must be weighed in proper proportion to the applicant's plans during this review process. Using existing business operations or past approvals to justify expansion is wrong when the existing operations do violate environmental, safety, and zoning standards.

We do appreciate the benefits of small businesses that serve the needs of a hamlet community, when done in accordance with applicable law and the welfare of its people. We chose to live here for this area's scenic beauty, rural setting, and charming architecture. We trust that the Planning Board will give this matter the thought and planning necessary to enhance and preserve those qualities for the families who live in this hamlet, for all the residents of Philipstown, and for the many tourists and future residents who visit here in search of those qualities.

Sincerely,

The Garrison Hamlet Association (<u>47</u> signatures attached, following Appendices and References)

Cc: Philipstown Conservation Board

 i. Coastal Resources. i. Is the project site within a Coastal Area, or the waterfront area of a Designated Inland Waterway? 	Yes	No
h. Potential contamination history. Has there been a reported spill at the proposed project site, or have any remedial actions been conducted at or adjacent to the proposed site?	Yes	SZ No
 If Yes: i. Is any portion of the site listed on the NYSDEC Spills Incidents database or Environmental Site Remediation database? Check all that apply: 	Yes	No
 Yes – Spills Incidents database Yes – Environmental Site Remediation database Provide DEC ID number(s): <u>#8707110</u> Provide DEC ID number(s): 		
Neither database		
d. Are there any facilities serving children, the elderly, people with disabilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, licensed day care centers, or group homes) within 1500 feet of the project site? If Yes,	Yes	No No
i Identify Fucilities: Garrison Union Free School, St. Philips Nursery School		
E.1. Land uses on and surrounding the project site		
a. Existing land uses. <i>i.</i> Check all uses that occur on, adjoining and near the project site. Urban Industrial I Commercial Residential (suburban) I Rural (non-farm) Forest Agriculture Aquatic Other (specify): <i>ii.</i> If mix of uses, generally describe:		
<i>II.</i> If mix of uses, generally describe: Schools, church, cemetery		
c. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commis	Yes	No NYS
which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commis Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic I If Yes: <i>i</i> .Nature of historic/archaeological resource: Archaeological Site Historic Building or District <i>ii</i> .Name: St. Philips Church.	Yes sicher of Places?	
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APPENDIX A – FALSE & INCOMPLETE APPLICATION STATEMENTS

iii. Parking spaces:	Existing	Proposed	Net increase/decrease				
		Repair parking spaces would decrease by numbe					
		d in a municipality with an adopted including any applicable overlay dis			2No		
. What is the averag	ge depth to the water	table on the project site? Average:	4.7 feet_ feet				
	tunity Area (BOA); d	any local or regional special planni esignated State or Federal heritage enic Area of Statewide Sign		Yes	□No		
	or other waterbodies	adjoin the project site?		Yes	No		
iii. Are any of the w state or local age	etlands or waterbodie ncy? ed regulated wetland	es within or adjoining the project si and waterbody on the project site, p	provide the following information:	Yes	Z No		
 iv. For each identifie Streams: 	Name			-			

a. In what school district is the project site located? COLD SPRING Garrison

EXPERTIS	E YOU CAN COUNT ON		
Aztech Technologies. Inc.	5 McCrea Hill Road Ballston Spa New York 12020	Fax:	ne: 518-885-5383 518-885-5385 v.aztechtech.com
February 5, 2010	state dos		
Melissa Mastro NYSDEC Region 3	state ctos		
21 South Putt Corners Road New Paltz, NY 12561-1696			4.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1
RE: Fourth Quarter 2009	Site Status Report		
Warex Terminals Co Garrison Getty #070	rporation		

Corner of NYS Route 9D and Nelson Lane, Garrison, NY

Dear Ms. Mastro,

NYSDEC Spill No. 87-07110

Aztech Technologies, Inc. (Aztech) has prepared the following correspondence summarizing the fieldwork completed at the above referenced site (**Figure 1**) during the fourth quarter of 2009, on behalf of Warex Terminals Corporation, Inc. (Warex). The fieldwork performed included quarterly gauging and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, AZMW-1, AZMW-2 and AZMW-5, along with sampling of the on-site potable drinking water well (DWW) on November 17, 2009. This data is used to track the natural attenuation of the dissolved petroleum compounds in groundwater at the site.

In a September 15, 2008 correspondence, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) indicated that spill number 87-07110 could be closed if they were provided with a letter from the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) indicating approval to discontinue sampling the offsite DWWs. A letter dated May 30, 2008 from the PCDOH was attached to Aztech's February 13, 2009 and October 13, 2009 Site Status Reports. In that letter, <u>PCDOH approved the discontinuation of DWW sampling associated with the Frasor and Nunsence Residences, the Garrison Union Free School and the St. Philips Episcopal Church.</u>

On April 20, 2009, contrary to their initial correspondence, the NYSDEC indicated that spill number 87-07110 could not be closed based on the groundwater concentration in monitoring well MW-1 despite the fact that these concentrations have fluctuated in the same range for the past five (5) years. Further the NYSDEC requested information about soil analytical results in the vicinity of monitoring well MW-1. Aztech responded via email indicating that Ira Conklin performed a soil boring investigation on behalf of Garrison Repairs, Inc. (current property owner). Additionally, Aztech requested that the current quarterly sampling program be reduced to semi-annually. On January 4, 2010, the NYSDEC approved the request for the monitoring wells to be sampled semiannually.

Groundwater Monitoring Well Gauging

Groundwater gauging is performed to determine the groundwater elevations and the flow direction at the site. The groundwater elevation for each monitoring well is calculated by subtracting the measured depth to groundwater from its relative top of casing (TOC) elevation. During the original survey (performed on February 15, 2002), an arbitrary survey benchmark was assigned an elevation of 100.00 feet. All calculated groundwater elevations are relative to this benchmark.

Aztech performed the fourth quarter 2009 monitoring event on November 17, 2009. A water level indicator graduated to 0.01 feet was used to measure the depth to groundwater in each

Aztech Technologies, Inc.

Page 1

Fourth Quarter 2009 Site Status Report	Warex Terminals Corporation, Garrison Getty #070420
NYSDEC Spill No. 87-07110	Corner of NYS Route 9D and Nelson Lane, Garrison, NY

groundwater monitoring well. A summary of the groundwater elevation data is presented in Table 1.

A groundwater contour map (**Figure 2**) was constructed using the data from the fourth quarter 2009 gauging event. Based on the groundwater gauging data, the overall groundwater flow direction was to the north on this date. This groundwater flow direction is consistent with previously recorded groundwater flow directions at this site.

Groundwater Sampling

On November 17, 2009, monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, AZMW-1, AZMW-2 and AZMW-5 were sampled. Based on the gauging data and known total depths of the monitoring wells, the volume of groundwater within each casing was calculated. Three (3) volumes of groundwater, or until the monitoring well became dry, were purged from each monitoring well using dedicated, disposable bailers. The monitoring wells were allowed to recharge prior to sample collection. Groundwater samples were then retrieved using new dedicated, disposable bailers and decanted into pre-preserved, laboratory-supplied sampling vials. The groundwater samples were placed on ice and shipped under a chain of custody to Accutest Laboratories of Marlborough, Massachusetts. The groundwater samples were analyzed within the applicable holding times using EPA Method 8260 for the NYSDEC STARS Memo #1 list of VOCs, plus MtBE.

The total benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX), total VOCs, and MtBE concentrations for this date are presented in **Figure 3**. The analytical results for the November 17, 2009 groundwater sampling event along with previous events are summarized in **Table 2**. A copy of the laboratory analytical report is attached. A review of the historic analytical results indicates that the residual dissolved VOC plume at the site appears to be immobile and confined to the property. This is supported by the continuing non-detect VOC concentrations in

Fourth Quarter 2009 Site Status Report NYSDEC Spill No. 87-07110 Warex Terminals Corporation, Garrison Getty #070420 Corner of NYS Route 9D and Nelson Lane, Garrison, NY

Recommendations

It is this firm's professional opinion that spill number 87-07110 should be closed - does not meet standards. The NYSDEC approved a reduction in the groundwater sampling frequency from quarterly to semiannually on January 4, 2010. As such, all site monitoring wells will be sampled in the second and fourth quarters. The next groundwater sampling event will be in May 2010. The onsite drinking water well will continue to be sampled quarterly.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely, AZTECH TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Jason Raymond Environmental Scientist



TABLE 2

LABORATORY GROUNDWATER ANALYTICAL RESULTS Warex Terminals Corporation Garrison Getty #070420 Garrison, NY NYSDEC Spill No. 87-07110

WELL ID/DATE	CONTAMINANT PARAMETER									
	Benzene	Toluene	Ethylbenzene	Xylenes	Total BTEX	Total VOC	MtBE			
Groundwater	1.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-		10			
Standards	MONITORING WELL ANALYTICAL RESULTS									
		M	IONITORING WI		TICAL RESU	JLIS				
NW-1	40				400	000	750			
9/20/2001	18	<5.0	84	30	132	330	752			
2/15/2002	<14	<20	39	<20	39	62	1,320			
4/25/2002	73	<50	169	50	293	432	4,280			
8/2/2002	<70	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	2,810			
11/20/2002	29	<10	487	380	896	1,744	3,180			
2/4/2003	<70	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	7,380			
5/20/2003	185	<100	355	256	796	987	13,800			
7/31/2003	<140	<200	<200	<200	<200	<200	12,400			
10/10/2003		-05			tion Initiated		0 400			
12/8/2003	43	<25	470	680	1,193	2,373	2,400			
2/26/2004	130	62	500	370	1,062	1,754	3,000			
5/21/2004	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	1,600			
8/3/2004	51	<50	401	173	625	885	6,830			
11/9/2004	36	<10	69	60	164	420	7,080			
2/7/2005	59	<20	219	63	341	665	3,410			
5/6/2005	65	<10	671	342	1,078	1,912	1,310			
8/18/2005**	21	<2.5	19	4.1	44	103	2,690			
11/9/2005**	56	2.2	413	92	564	948	2,490			
2/14/2006**	42	2.7	333	117	495	974	902			
5/2/2006**	24	1.2	347	90	462	908	1,020			
8/2/2006**	10	<1.0	14	2.1	26	66	357			
11/27/2006**	15	2.0	396	259	672	1,265	121			
2/2/2007**	24	<1.0	98	10	132	254	138			
4/2/2007		1	Monthly Vacu							
5/2/2007**	24	5.6	841	1,133	2,004	3,805	55			
8/28/2007**	16	<1.0	77	20	114	240	55			
11/29/2007**	4.9	<1.0	121	36	161	455	8.4			
2/7/2008**	12	1.4	523	214	750	1,714	8.8			
5/28/2008**	26	<1.0	78	23	127	322	66			
12/30/2008**	17	1.7	374	119	512	1,245	9.9			
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9/23/2009**	16	<1.0	212	20	248	747	11			
11/17/2009** //W-2	24	2.8	462	235	724	1,470	14			
9/20/2001		Mc	onitoring well ina	coossible du	io to surface r	upoff	and the first second			
2/15/2002	4.0	<1.0	4.0	<1.0	8.0	13	168			
4/25/2002	4.0		nitoring well ina				100			
8/2/2002		IVIC	Monitoring w			unon				
11/20/2002	8.1	<1.0	40	34 I	82	163 I	141			
2/4/2003	12	<1.0	12	2.7	26	44	104			
5/20/2003	24	<5.0	50	54	128	161	602			
7/31/2003	11	<10	21	12	44	44	414			
12/8/2003	9.3	<0.5	9.0	3.2	22	37	300			
2/26/2003	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	1,300			
5/21/2004	<10	<10	11	<10	11	11	390			
8/3/2004	8.4	<1.0	10	2.8	22	32	281			

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TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF GROUNDWATER ELEVATIONS Warex Terminals Corporation Garrison Getty #070420 Garrison, NY NYSDEC Spill No. 87-07110

WELL DESIGNATION		MW-1 *	MW-2 *	MW-3 *	MW-4 *	AZMW-1	AZMW-2	AZMW-3	AZMW-4	AZMW-5
TOP OF CASING		99.35	98.80	99.06	98.94	98.87	99.04	99.35	99.06	99.48
TOP OF S	CREEN	NA	NA	NA	NA	94.37	94.04	94.35	94.56	97.48
TOTAL D	DEPTH	86.75	87.70	88.31	90.34	84.37	84.04	84.35	84.56	87.48
MEASUREMENT DATE	Gauging Data		GROUNDWATER ELEVA							
11/29/2007	Elevation	94.05	94.49	95.37	95.26	94.16	94.14	NA	NA	94.63
11/29/2007	DTW	5.30	4.31	3.69	3.68	4.71	4.90	NG	NG	4.85
2/7/2009	Elevation	94.34	95.34	96.06	95.73	94.43	NA	NA	NA	94.90
2/7/2008	DTW	5.01	3.46	3.00	3.21	4.44	NG	NG	NG	4.58
5/28/2008	Elevation	93.25	93.68	94.47	94.42	93.37	93.36	NA	NA	93.49
5/20/2006	DTW	6.10	5.12	4.59	4.52	5.50	5.68	NG	NG	5.99
12/30/2008	Elevation	94.33	94.99	96.53	95.76	94.43	94.42	NA	NA	95.15
12/30/2006	DTW	5.02	3.81	2.53	3.18	4.44	4.62	NG	NG	4.33
2/19/2009	Elevation	94.07	94.65	96.39	95.60	94.16	94.13	NA	NA	94.21
2/19/2009	DTW	5.28	4.15	2.67	3.34	4.71	4.91	NG	NG	5.27
5/21/2009	Elevation	93.56	94.03	94.82	94.83	93.70	93.68	NA	NA	93.98
5/21/2009	DTW	5.79	4.77	4.24	4.11	5.17	5.36	NG	NG	5.50
9/23/2009	Elevation	93.01	93.27	93.94	94.03	93.12	93.13	NA	NA	92.92
912312009	DTW	6.34	5.53	5.12	4.91	5.75	5.91	NG	NG	6.56
11/17/2009	Elevation	93.81	94.15	95.17	95.14	93.94	93.93	NA	NA	93.75
11/17/2009	DTW	5.54	4.65	3.89	3.80	4.93	5.11	NG	NG	5.73

Groundwater elevations and well design are represented in feet based on arbitrary datum recorded on 10/3/02 by Aztech

NI - Monitoring well not installed as of the posted date

NA - Data not available

NG - Not gauged DTW - Depth to water measurement in feet * - This monitoring well was not installed by Aztech, however the total depth measurement was collected on 10/3/02.

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REFERENCES

- ⁱ New York State Department of State. (1993, 2004). Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance. http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/HudsonSASS/Hudson%20River%20Valley%20SASS.pdf
- New York State Department of Transportation, Route 9D Scenic Byway Steering Committee. (2006). Route 9D Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan.
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Garrison Gulf Gas Pump Canopy & Used Car Lot Application