

Dryden Town Board touts air quality

► Officials: New compressor units at Borger Station to cut emissions

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DRYDEN — The replacement of two compressor units at the Borger Station in Ellis Hollow will lead to a reduction in carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, according to a committee that studies environmental and safety issues in the town.

"Anything we can do to improve air quality is good for the community," Janice Bretscher, a member of Dryden's Safety and Preparedness Advisory Committee said at a Dryden Town Board meeting Thursday night.

More than 200 homes are located within just over a mile of the station, Bretscher said.

Dominion Energy, which owns the station, agreed to replace units two and three at the station with new units — five and six. The new units will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by over 90 percent and carbon monoxide by 88 percent per year, committee member Katie Quinn-Jacobs said Thursday night.

During the meeting the committee also asked the board to write another letter to Dominion Energy officials asking that they sell the compressors for scrap only.

"If we don't want these dirty leaky things in Dryden, we don't want them being sold to some place in Texas or Mexico or wherever they might decide to sell them," Quinn-Jacobs said.

Dominion Energy officials were not at the meeting.

"We appreciate you staying on top of the timeline, giving us advice

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on when to punch in and get their attention," Deputy Town Supervisor Dan Lamb said during the meeting.

It's a big win for both Dominion Energy and local residents the committee members said, after corresponding with Dominion Energy and the Dryden Town Board about the issue of leaks from the older units since 2017. She noted the group and the town board had written let-

ters requesting Dominion Energy upgrade the compressors and add a new oxidation catalyst for a third compressor.

"We did not meet with success initially," Quinn-Jacobs said. "In 2017 Dominion said they couldn't make the changes because they were doing other construction."

But in 2018 the group realized the company would be up for renewal of its air quality permit through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and

decided to once again reach out to Dominion Energy officials, who agreed to replace the compressors. They did not agree to replace the catalyst on the third compressor.

"This was really a win for the residents who have to breathe the air and for Dominion because it will save them money in terms of maintenance and operation," Quinn-Jacobs said.

The new compressors are expected to be fully operational in late 2021.