

## **8.0 EFFECTS ON THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES**

Both short-term and long-term energy consumption effects are associated with all residential construction projects. Short-term energy consumption impacts would occur during construction of the proposed development, primarily due to the consumption of fossil fuels through the operation of power equipment and construction vehicles.

Once constructed, the proposed 458 dwelling units would be occupied by households that would place long-term demands on various energy sources. In all residential dwellings, energy will be consumed for space heating, air-conditioning, water heating, lighting, refrigerators and other appliances. The Energy Information Administration of the US Department of Energy conducts a Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) which provides statistical information on the use of household energy in the United States. RECS data for New York indicates that approximately 64 million BTUs<sup>1</sup> are consumed per household annually in New York State. It is expected then that the 458 households proposed for this project would consume approximately 2.9 billion BTU of energy annually.

Electrical and gas service, provided by Orange & Rockland Utilities, would be extended to the project site via buried utility connections. Fuel oil service is available through several local companies located in Chester, Goshen, Monroe and other nearby localities. Orange & Rockland does not anticipate any problems accommodating the projected electrical and gas demands created by the proposed development. All underground utility connections will meet Town Code and industry specifications. Orange & Rockland supports a program of encouraging the use of renewable energy resources and conservation of energy.

Energy conservation in New York is regulated at the state level for new residential and commercial construction. The Ulster Manor dwellings would be constructed in accordance with the New York State Energy Code. In effect since 2002, the code specifies basic requirements that are mandatory for newly constructed buildings. Requirements apply to heating and cooling systems, hot water systems, electrical systems, construction materials, equipment specifications and building sealing and insulation. Additionally, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Public Service Commission promote compliance with Energy Star<sup>®</sup> and New York Energy Smart<sup>SM</sup> programs by construction firms, building management firms and homeowners that encourage the use of energy conserving appliances, materials, technologies and building techniques. Compliance with provisions of these energy conservation programs would reduce the overall long-term energy consumption of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> BTU, or British Thermal Unit, is a unit of heat measurement.