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September 21, 2016

Chairwoman Margaret Curran
Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board

Todd Anthony Bianco, Coordinator
RI Energy Facility Siting Board

Dear Chairwoman Curran,

Hi My name is Kathryn Scaramella. I'm a resident of Pascoag, Rhode Island.

In the advisory opinion dated August 3, 2016, Statewide Planning reviewed the Invenergy project relying on both the Invenergy application and the testimony of a Mr. Seth Parker. His testimony was given during one of the Public Utility Commission hearings. Statewide Planning's Advisory Opinion was constructed in part by Mr. Parker's testimony.

According to that testimony Mr. Parker states, and I quote, "When adjusted to reflect [Invenergy's] exaggerated wholesale capacity price savings ...the percentage savings for Rhode Island consumers would be small but meaningful."

Statewide Planning went on to say that based on that testimony alone, Statewide Planning states, and I quote, "The Program [also known as Statewide Planning] finds that the Project will reduce regional wholesale capacity and energy prices and that the Project will lower electricity costs for Rhode Island consumers."

In a review of the advisory opinion from Statewide Planning, I find there is no mention of what that "small but meaningful" savings really means. There is no chart or graph or table within the Statewide Planning advisory opinion that would help to support that claim.

No where in the Statewide Planning advisory opinion is an assurance that a price reduction will happen and no where is it stated for how long this price reduction will last.

So let me help as maybe I can shed some light on the savings for Rhode Island. And I'll tell you right from the start I'm no expert, but I can add and subtract and have enough cognitive skills to understand differences in numbers.

There is a misconception especially from our Governor that Rhode Island has some of the highest electricity prices in the nation. Our Governor uses the language of "highest electricity prices in the nation" as a means to garner support for the Invenergy project. Well, that simply isn't true. There are 9 states with higher electricity prices. That is 20 percent of all the states in the Union.

And it is often stated by Invenergy that this power plant will reduce those high energy prices. Well, even according to the Advisory opinion, that doesn't seem to be true either. "Small but meaningful" does not sound like winning combination for reducing energy costs in New England and Rhode Island.

When you factor in costs of distribution, transmission charges, transition charges and a customer charge of \$5 per monthly bill per residential customer, our electric energy costs are about 18.60 cents per kilowatt hour. In New England, that isn't bad. Connecticut is 20.96 cents per kilowatt hour - a full \$0.0236 cents higher. Massachusetts is slightly behind us at 18.51 - by the way the Massachusetts price is \$0.0009 cents less than Rhode Island. New Hampshire is 18.13. Vermont is 17.57 and Maine comes in at the lowest at 16.03. That is a range from the lowest to highest of about 4.93 cents per kilowatt hour of residential electricity. And Rhode Island's is just 2.57 cents higher than our lowest New England neighbor state.

Now for me a "small but meaningful" savings in my electric bill would be to get it down to under 10 cents per kilowatt hour. That would be meaningful. Can Statewide Planning assure me of that amount? And can Statewide Planning assure me that the savings will last longer than what Invenergy states as a 3 year savings. In other words, Invenergy and Statewide Planning can't guarantee me a savings after 3 years.

If under 10 cents per kilowatt hour is not the amount, then what is the amount? To base a finding simply on the statement of "small but meaningful" is wholesale non-sense and cast doubt on this section of the Statewide Planning advisory opinion and the whole advisory opinion by Statewide Planning.

What are the numbers then?

If this fracked gas oil fired power plant is truly necessary, then make the case to me.

To be meaningful, a price for a kilowatt hour should be like Idaho at 8.0 cents per kilowatt hour or Missouri at 9.7 or how about Minnesota at 10.9.

Madame Chairman and board members, I want you to reject section 1 titled Energy Costs Impacts from the Statewide Planning Advisory Opinion as this section, along with others, is misleading, does not have the necessary backup information and is small and meaningless.

The Invenergy project will not decrease energy prices in our state as most of the energy will flow out of state and the savings, if any, are grossly exaggerated.

Thank you for your time.

Kathryn Scaramella