

I AM SPEAKING TONIGHT IN REGARDS TO THE PROCESS OF ADVISORY POSITIONS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE OVERAL PROCEDURE OF SITING AN ENERGY GENERATING FACILITY. I AM DOING SO, BECAUSE THE RESIDENTS OF BURRILLVILLE HAVE BEEN TOLD OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO PLEASE RESPECT THE PROCESS. TO TRUST THE PROCESS. THE PROCESS WILL SHOW IF THE PLANT SHOULD BE SITED OR NOT. WE'VE BEEN TOLD THIS BY THE GOVERNOR, BY SENATOR WHITEHOUSE AND EVEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD. HERE IS HOW I SEE THE PROCESS:

- THE PROCESS SET CLEAR DEADLINES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCEDURE FOR ADVISORY POSITIONS TO BE SUBMITTED. HOWEVER, THE PROCESS SEEMS TO BE LACKING AN ACCOUNTABILITY PIECE, AS SIX OF THE 12 REQUIRED ADVISORY POSITIONS EXPRESSED THE SAME SENTIMENT – THAT INVENERGY DID NOT PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR THEM TO SUBMIT AN APPROPRIATE ADVISORY OPINION.
- THE PROCESS SEEMS TO HAVE ALLOWED INVENERGY TO PROVIDE VAGUE ANSWERS OR SIMPLY NOT RESPOND TO DATA POINT REQUESTS TO THE FRUSTRATION OF THOSE ATTEMPTING TO DO WHAT WAS REQUIRED. THE PROCESS SHOULD HOLD THE APPLICANT ACCOUNTABLE AND REQUIRE THAT THEY PROVIDE COMPLETE RESPONSES IN A TIMELY MANNER.
- THE PROCESS ALLOWS FOR AN ADVISORY POSITION FILED ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO BE COMPLETED BY A SINGLE PERSON. THIS WAS AFTER ONE

OF THE ELIGIBLE STAFF MEMBERS HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. THE PROCESS OF HAVING ONE PERSON REPRESENT THE COMMISSION WAS QUESTIONED, AND A DECISION WAS MADE THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR ONE PERSON TO COMPLETE THE TASK. WHO RULED ON THAT DECISION...THE GENTLEMEN THAT WAS COMPLETING THE ADVISORY POSITION BY HIMSELF.

- IN OTHER AREAS, THE PROCESS ALLOWS REPRESENTATIVES OF INVENERGY TO FALSELY TESTIFY AT OPEN MEETINGS. THEY MADE THE DECISION TO EXAGGERATE THE POTENTIAL RATE SAVINGS TO RI CUSTOMERS AT AN OPEN MEETING WITH THE EFSB BOARD. DID THE PROCESS REQUIRE THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR MISLEADING INFORMATION? NO. THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED THAT INFORMATION IN LOCAL ADS AND MAILINGS AND THERE ARE PROBABLY SOME PEOPLE WHO STILL BELIEVE THE AVERAGE PERSON WILL SEE GREAT RATE SAVINGS IF THE PLANT IS BUILT.
- THE PROCESS ALLOWED INVENERGY TO FALSELY ADVERTISE AND IDENTIFY THE LOCATION AND/OR TIME OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH THE EFSB BOARD IN LOCAL TOWN ADS. WE THEN HEARD THAT THE EFSB BOARD WAS DISAPPOINTED IN THE TURNOUT BY CITIZENS FOR THOSE MEETINGS. AGAIN, INVENERGY WAS NOT HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR MISLEADING INFORMATION.

- THE PROCESS REQUIRES THAT OUR TOWN COUNCIL REMAIN NEUTRAL THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, YET OUR HIGHEST ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR AND SENATOR WHITEHOUSE CAN EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT.
- THE PROCESS ALLOWS FOR AN ATTORNEY THAT WORKS FOR A TOWN BOARD TO ALSO LOBBY AGAINST PROPOSED LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE PROJECT ON BEHALF OF THE LABOR UNIONS, AND ALSO ALLOWS FOR HIS LAW FIRM TO FILE A MOTION OPPOSING THE TOWN'S MOTION FOR THE EFSB TO CLOSE THE DOCKET ON THIS PROPOSAL. THE QUESTION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST WAS RAISED, BUT THE ATTORNEY CONTINUES TO REPRESENT PARTIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PROPOSAL.
- THE PROCESS ALLOWS THE GOVERNOR AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUALLY ADVOCATE FOR THE JOBS THIS PROJECT MAY CREATE, YET THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING THE NEED OF SUCH A PLANT AND IF THE PROPOSED SITE IS THE APPROPRIATE PLACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CREATING JOBS. I DON'T BELIEVE THE EFSB HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE JOBS AND I DON'T BELIEVE IT IS AN APPROPRIATE OUTCOME TO CONSIDER IN THIS SETTING. YET THE PROCESS HAS ALLOWED THIS TO BE A MAJOR RALLYING CRY FOR THOSE THAT SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

IT HAS BECOME VERY HARD FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE TO RESPECT THE PROCESS AS IT SEEMS TO BE FLAWED IN ALMOST ALL AREAS. THE PROCESS APPARENTLY WAS PUT IN PLACE TO LIMIT THE INPUT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE SITING OF ENERGY FACILITIES.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THIS PROCESS IS NOW TOO WRAPPED UP IN STATE WIDE POLITICS. THE EFSB BOARD MEMBERS WORK FOR THE GOVERNOR. THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTS THE PROJECT. COMPANIES SUCH AS GOLDMAN SACHS AND GE APPEAR TO BE PARTNERS IN BOTH THIS PROPOSED PROJECT AS WELL AS WORKING WITH THE GOVERNOR ON STATE WIDE INITIATIVES.

WHEN DOES COMMON SENSE COME INTO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS? WHY WEREN'T ALTERNATE SITES CONSIDERED, AS HAS BEEN THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE WHEN SITING ENERGY FACILITIES. WHY HAS THERE NOT BEEN A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMPLETED? WHY ARE WE NOT RELYING ON INFORMATION FROM PAST CONSIDERATION OF THIS LAND FOR A POWER PLANT? WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED THAT IT WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SITE? WHAT HAS CHANGED? TO QUOTE DIRECTOR COIT REGARDING THIS LARGEST UNDISTURBED AREA IN ALL OF RI, "THIS PARCEL OF LAND IS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR WILDLIFE. THE AMOUNT OF RARE AND UNCOMMON SPECIES ON THIS PROPERTY IS AMAZING." HOPEFULLY RI DEM HAS TAKEN SOME GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THAT AMAZING WILDLIFE, AS IT WILL BE NO MORE IF THIS PLANT IS APPROVED.

OVER 20 GROUPS HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROPOSAL. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOU AS THE EFSB BOARD WILL TRULY LISTEN AND READ THROUGH WHY THIS IS THE WRONG PROJECT IN THE WRONG LOCATION. WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT STATE WIDE POLITICS AND MAKE A DECISION ON THE MERITS OF THE

PROJECT AND TRULY CONSIDER THE NEGATIVE, LONG LASTING, DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS
THIS PROJECT WOULD BRING TO THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE.

