

Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Blvd
Warwick, RI 02888

4/16/2016

RECEIVED
2016 APR 20 PM 12:00
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

re: Docket SB2015-06 Invernegy

Written Testimony

I am writing in opposition to the proposed power plant referenced in the docket number above. My initial opposition is as a resident of Pascoag residing approximately 1-1/2 miles from the proposed site. My home sits west of the proposed site at an elevation roughly the same as the tops of the proposed smokestacks, so naturally I am concerned that our area will be unnecessarily exposed to carcinogens and other waste products detrimental to human health as listed in the application. I am also concerned about the excessive traffic and lowered property values that will come with this development.

I am further troubled by the applicant's plan to use MTBE tainted water in their process. While I realize they will treat this water, there will still be some MTBE remaining in their waste, to be sent into our air and, via the waste water treatment plant, into our rivers. I don't see in the application where the applicant has addressed the potential environmental and health effects of these additional discharges.

In the bigger picture, the applicant would like us to believe that this plant is a stepping stone towards clean energy and while true that it will be cleaner than coal, there is no denying that there are much cleaner forms of energy available. This brings me to my final point, regarding climate change and your responsibility under the law. In the enabling legislation (Energy Facility Siting Act (RI General Laws sec. 42-98)) it is stated:

(3) The energy shall be produced at the least possible cost to the consumer

I believe this is a critical requirement which by itself is reason enough to deny this proposal. The true cost to the consumer of energy produced by a gas power plant emitting massive amounts of greenhouse gasses is far greater than the application would lead us to believe. Evidence continues to mount that man made climate change is endangering our planet. Power plants are far and away the largest producers of greenhouse gasses. A quick scan of scientific studies over the past few years show increasing evidence that unless we rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we will experience rising sea levels, extreme weather and many other detrimental effects. As Secretary of State John Kerry recently stated: *"what can seem like the cheapest energy in the short-term actually has insurmountable cost in the long-term."*

One recent article demonstrates what the effects of climate change will be close to home:

By the end of the century, if greenhouse gas emissions continue unchecked, Fenway Park, along with a huge chunk of the rest of Boston, could end up underwater. Miami Beach might be submerged. The same is true for parts of every coastal city, from Hong Kong to Mumbai.

(source: <http://www.fastcoexist.com/3058601/look-how-much-of-your-city-will-be-underwater-by-2100-so-much/6>)

We live in the Ocean State. Imagine the devastation to our State with a 3 to 6 foot rise in sea level. Just today The Providence Journal's website has a headline: "*Newport sees the firsthand threat of climate change*". Think about where that puts the **true long term cost** of the energy produced by this proposed plant. The Rhode Island Legislature clearly understood the ramifications of climate change when they passed the Resilient Rhode Island Act (Chapter 6.2, Title 42). As has been presented to your board by others far more knowledgeable than myself, your approval of this plant will make it impossible for the State to reach the emission goals codified in this legislation. More broadly, your approval of this plant will put us one step closer to irreversible climate change and the devastation it will bring.

I hope the Energy Facility Siting Board realizes the awesome responsibility it holds in its hands. Don't just think about our State, think about the ramifications to the entire planet. Your choice is clear. All you have to do is to think about the **true cost** of this energy and you must reject the proposal.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Chomka, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Walter Chomka, Jr.
50 Town Farm Road
Pascoag, RI 02859