

**Comments of David Brunetti**  
**935 Sherman Farm Road, Harrisville, RI 02830**  
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**RI Energy Facilities Siting Board Public Hearing**  
**On the Proposed Invenergy Power Plant in Burrillville, RI**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

Members of the RI Energy Facilities Siting Board:

My name is David Brunetti, of 935 Sherman Farm Road in Harrisville, RI and I am in opposition to the siting of the proposed Invenergy Power Plant in the Town of Burrillville for the following reasons:

1. Noise issue

As communicated at the April 28, 2016 joint meeting of the Town of Burrillville Planning Board and Zoning Board by the Town Council's hired consultant on noise as it relates to the Invenergy Power Plant, while Invenergy believes that they can comply with the Town's noise level ordinance of no more than 43 decibels, it is readily apparent that they will not be able to meet this requirement during the start-up and shutdown periods.

As stated by the consultant, this type of plant is uniquely susceptible to making a lot of noise during start-up and shut-down. Such start-up and shut-down periods, at 5:00 am and 11:00 pm, respectively, could last from between 40 minutes and 2 hours. While such start-up and shut-down periods may only occur once per week or so, they could also occur every day.

With the current plant design, even while using the proposed low noise rotary valve assembly, the noise level would be in the range of 90 - 95 decibels, a sound level which is equivalent to being 50 feet away from a jackhammer and, according to a decibel comparison chart, is the level at which sustained exposure may result in hearing loss.

Based on the experience of the consultant from work on other power plants with a similar design, it would be very difficult for Invenergy to meet the Town's noise ordinance.

While it has been proposed that such a noise level issue might be resolved by housing this portion of the plant in a building, that is not the current design and it has already been communicated by Invenergy that they oppose such an option due to cost.

2. Water issue

Based on the assessment by the RI Water Resources Board, under the scenario of using oil for fuel, the consumption of water would exceed the capacity of the water supply reported in the Pascoag Utility District Water Supply System Management Plan.

Building a new, long-lived, fossil-fuel-fired power plant like Invenergy's – which would emit dangerous carbon pollution into the atmosphere for decades – would be going in the wrong direction, one that would lead toward higher emissions. That this is the case is clear from the fact that the proposed Burrillville plant would be more polluting per kilowatt hour generated than the average energy now on the New England power grid.

The Resilient Rhode Island Act is a clear mandate for the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board to act to meet the emissions-reduction goals. The Act is sound public policy, representing a managed glide path to a transition in our energy systems away from fossil fuels. Given the mandate laid out in the Act, the Siting Board should play its role as a key agent in the state's public policy system.

## 5. Fracking issue

I believe that just about everyone is now aware of the process of hydraulic fracturing, or **“fracking”**, for the release of natural gas from shale rocks from deep wells.

Each gas well requires an average of **400 tanker trucks** to carry water and supplies to and from the site.

It takes **1-8 million gallons of water** to complete each fracturing job.

The water brought in is mixed with sand and a multitude of chemicals to create fracking fluid.

**Approximately 40,000 gallons of chemicals** are used per fracturing event.

Up to **600 chemicals** are used in fracking fluid, including known carcinogens and toxins such as...lead, uranium, mercury, ethylene glycol, radium, methanol, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde, etc...most of which are not disclosed by the fracking industry.

The Math: 500,000 Active gas wells in the US X 8 million Gallons of water per fracking event X 18 Times that a well can be fracked = **72 trillion gallons of water and 360 billion gallons of chemicals** needed to run our current gas wells.

Contamination - During this process, methane gas and toxic chemicals leach out from the system and contaminate nearby groundwater. Methane concentrations are 17 times higher in drinking-water wells near fracturing sites than in normal wells, so much so that the water can ignite and burn when lit by a match.

Drinking Water - Contaminated well water is used for drinking water for nearby cities and towns. There have been over 1,000 documented cases of water contamination next to areas of gas drilling as well as cases of sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage due to the ingestion of contaminated water.

What's Left Behind - Only 30-50% of the fracturing fluid is recovered, **the rest of the toxic fluid is left in the ground and is not biodegradable.**

The waste fluid is left in open air pits to evaporate, releasing **harmful VOC's** (volatile organic compounds) into the atmosphere, creating contaminated air, acid rain, and ground level ozone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on this critical issue for the Town of Burrillville and the State of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brunetti", written in a cursive style.

David Brunetti