

Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm David Esten and I live in Harrisville.

I know that many of our residents in Burrillville have families that date back many generations. My family, too, has deep roots in this town, first settling here in the late ~~1600~~¹⁷⁰⁰'s. In fact, a member of the first town council founded in 1806 was John Esten.

The reason I mention this is to make a point....what I have to say tonight has no more significance than something the person who moved here yesterday has to say.

I've given a lot of thought to this project, and heard many compassionate town residents stating the reasons why it would not be good for the community. But I need to look at both sides of the issue in order to determine what will be best for the greater good.

Electricity is a part of our everyday lives, and it is often taken for granted. In the near future the region will be experiencing an energy shortfall of 4200 megawatts with the closing of plants such as Brayton Point, a coal fired facility in Somerset, Mass, and Pilgrim Station, a nuclear power site in Plymouth, Mass.

Some people are in favor of making up for this shortfall through a renewable resource approach. I, too, have looked into these options and this is what I have found

In St. Petersburg ~~Alabama~~^{FLA}, Duke Energy has covered a parking garage with 318 solar panels, producing 100 kilowatts of electricity. You probably know that a kilowatt is ~~1/100~~^{1/1000TH} of a megawatt.

In Kansas, BP wind energy will install 262 wind turbines on 66,000 acres, producing 314 megawatts.

In addition these renewal systems require a battery storage system to compensate for low production due to lack of wind and darkness. The largest battery back-up system in North America is in Texas, with a maximum storage capacity of 93 megawatts.

My point is.....Given these numbers, it would take 833 wind turbines, or 3,180,000 solar panels to equal the 1000 megawatt capacity of Clear River Energy Project. Do you think that might take up a little more land????

Yes there has been significant progress in renewables of late, but I feel the capacity does not exist yet and the logistics of such a project would be challenging to say the least.

As I drive around town, I see many signs in opposition to the new power plant, but I see many more houses with no signs. I'm curious....what do those families think about the proposed project?

Residents living near the area have raised concerns about the proposed project, specifically increased noise and environmental impact. There will be evidence given to the siting board by various agencies regarding these concerns.

Emissions coming from the plant is another concern raised. By replacing Brayton Point, a coal fired facility, with the proposed plant, which would use state-of-the-art emission control technology, making it among the cleanest natural gas plants in the country, the result would be a significant reduction in greenhouse gases to the region.

I know from my own working experience in coal and gas fired plants, gas is cleaner by far.

There are protected areas in proximity to the plant sight. These include bodies of water and state recreation land. When I walk through Black Hut Management Area, which is in close proximity to Ocean State power, there doesn't seem to be a negative impact. I see plenty of birds, deer and tranquil spots.

Some have questioned whether such a project would compromise the quality of the drinking water drawn from Scituate Reservoir and Wallum Lake. We have some operating experience associated with Scituate Reservoir, as a 3 unit gas fired plant lies right over the Connecticut line in Killingly. This plant is due west of Scituate Res, directly up wind. To my knowledge, there has been no adverse effect on the quality of the water associated with the operation of the Killingly site.

Up to 200 acres will be clear cut to make way for the proposed project. People have clear cut sections of forests for generations. Walk through the woods and everywhere you see a stone wall, there once was a field.

There is currently a large residential construction project off of South Main Street where many acres of forest have been clear cut. I didn't see any ad in the Bargain Buyer protesting that project.

Many in town burn fire wood. Firewood comes from cutting down trees and also contributes to greenhouse gases.

The town of Burrillville would receive millions in tax revenue over the course of the operation of the plant. This would insure financial stability for the foreseeable

future. A financially stable town is a desirable place to live and stimulates property value appreciation. A financially solvent town is better able to fund police and fire protection, better schools and infrastructure improvements.

Regarding Union workers, some have said "how low will the unions stoop to support this project? They point out these jobs are only temporary. To that I say a union craftsman makes a lifetime living by stringing together a series of temporary jobs. There are several union craftsmen living in this town that could be employed on this project.

Remember....Unions also fight for living wages and safer working conditions for their members, which, in turn, helps all, just as a rising tide raises all boats.

Safe, dependable electricity generation is no accident. It is a project of careful planning and foresight by the likes of National Grid, Siting Boards, and Private investors.

When all of the testimony is heard and all studies are submitted, the Siting Board will make their decision.

I support the Clear River energy project. Thank you for listening,

The opposition to this plant is a very vocal minority, stirred up by outside agitators.