

May 23, 2016

I wish to thank the siting board members for their service and apologize for our sometimes rude outbursts over the course of these hearings. It is not out of malice or disrespect.

We were conned by Seabrook and it cost us millions of dollars with no return. We were poisoned by Mobil, and had to fight off OSP when they proposed building a power plant in the same area that Invenergy now proposes.

We have been through much and are tired, frustrated, and very passionate about our environment.

HISTORY OF THE FACILITIES SITING BOARD regarding proposed Invenergy power plant.

During the 1980's the nation was experiencing great shortfalls between energy produced and energy demand.

Large portions of the United States were experiencing rolling brown outs and frequent blackouts.

New plant construction was at a virtual standstill due to "not in my back yard" syndrome.

The Federal Government urged States to take action to break the blockade and approve projects that are necessary, meet the public need, and meet a list of criteria.

This board was set up by our Legislators to be independent of political pressure, and are appointed from within the three agencies representing the board. Planning, Environmental, and Public Utilities.

Our Legislators drafted the Energy Facilities Siting Act in a way that would address the future changes in events as well as the crisis situation the Board was formed during. The board is not only tasked with approving unpopular energy projects that are needed, but they are also tasked with protecting the public and the environment from projects that are not critical and will not be in the best interest's of the residents health and our natural resource.

In times of energy shortfalls, the health and environmental concerns carry less weight, but in times of plenty those concerns must and do carry much more weight.

The EFSB Charter under which you operate states several conditions that must be met.

First, is there a need?

A lot of evidence has and will be presented that shows there is an energy glut. There are three large stand by plants within an hour's drive of here that rarely operate. I have been to those plants in my role of safety officer to provide training.

There are also many renewable energy projects coming on line every day. Surrounding states are encouraging programs that place photovoltaic panels on rooftops, further reducing demand. Why isn't Rhode Island doing the same?

Per the Charter: The applicant must look to reusing or expanding existing sites. In energy states that they need to build this plant to replace older plants that will be decommissioned in the near future. Why is their FIRST choice a pristine environment? An area where a previous smaller plant was denied? Why are they not looking at an existing site where they would at least be doing minimal harm?

They also must use quote "CLEAN, PURE WATER".

Their GREAT PLAN is to use the MTBE contaminated well.

Invenergy claims they can clean it prior to use. Scientific evidence says that is not the case. We need only look to existing sites where remediation attempts have been ongoing for years to no real benefit.

The residents are still suffering from the effects of the MTBE contamination, including cancers of many kinds in great disproportion to the national average, many believe it is a direct result of the contamination from the very well this project is planning on using, a well ordered sealed by the Rhode Island Courts, not to mention that they want to place stack dispersing it as steam in the middle of a primary recreation and environmentally important wetlands and aquifer, an area where DEM has recently purchased another 189 acre parcel that is quote “ among the highest priority conservation parcels in the state”. Every year I pick up my copy of the RIDEM fishing regulations. A few years ago they added a new section, a list of warnings regarding what lakes to limit eating the fish. Each year the list expands. Several bodies of water within a five mile radius are now on that list. Echo Lake, Bowdish, and Indian Lake are examples. It is recommended that you eat no more than one serving a month. They are contaminated with heavy metals and getting worse. The

same contaminants that are emitted from the stacks of the many fossil fuel plants in the region already. Are we purchasing all of this conservation land just to turn it into a toxic wasteland or are we trying to save something for our grandchildren ????

There is talk of the benefits of all those jobs. Temporary jobs filled by mostly out of state workers, that's who construction workers are. I was one of them. I traveled all over creation and spent a lot of time away from home as an on site safety officer, but that's what we do. We go where the work is. Force Invenergy to locate this plant where it at least makes sense. Build it where it will do some good and the union guys will go there with their heads held high armed with the knowledge that they are doing no harm while providing for their families.

During times such as we find ourselves today, without a shortage of energy in the region, the project must meet the criteria outlined in the EFSB Charter. The extensive environmental concerns, failure to look at expanding existing facilities and or existing dormant sites, lack of CLEAN water just to name a few, Demands a rejection by this Board per your own Charter.

Clearly, the Board is NOT a rubber stamp for Greed Not Need based projects, no matter how many politicians are for it.

The Public good is not served by a plant that is not needed and will cause so much damage to an area that has been called by many State and Federal agencies over the last three decades as one of the most important natural environments in RI to protect as you will see in other evidence you will see submitted. There has been a public uproar and a cry for someone to do something, including changing the law.

I believe that our past Legislators did a decent job ensuring that the powers of the board are limited, and spell out what must be done, both in times of need and times of plenty.

When you have reviewed the mountains of evidence and testimony against this project, I believe it will be obvious that this is a situation of GREED NOT NEED, and the price is way too high.

I believe you will maintain the integrity and credibility of the EFSB and follow the letter and spirit of the Charter that you operate under, and reject this proposal.

**Norman Desjarlais,
Burrillville Resident**



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News Release

RI Department of Environmental Management
 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
 (401) 222-2771 TDD/(401) 222-4462

For Release: July 2, 2012

Contact: Gail Mastrati 222-4700 ext. 2402

DEM PURCHASES CRITICAL 189-ACRE PARCEL IN BURRILLVILLE, CONNECTING OVER 7,000 ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

PROVIDENCE - The Department of Environmental Management has acquired 189 acres of land in Burrillville from the Boy Scouts of Rhode Island. The parcel is situated adjacent to over 7,000 acres of state-preserved land. To the north of the property lies the 2,084-acre Buck Hill Management Area, and to the south is the 5,203-acre George Washington/Durfee Hill Management Area. The property also abuts Connecticut's Quaddick State Forest to the west. This property is considered among the highest priority conservation parcels in the state, and the high concentration of protected land in the area allows for increased habitat protection with minimal disturbance.

The land features a myriad of uncommon species and habitats of both plants and animals. Plant species include locally-common conifers such as White Pine and Eastern Hemlock and tree species such as American Larch and Black Spruce, which are typically associated with northern forest habitats. Many rare plants have been identified on the property including Common Oak Fern, Round-leaved Orchid, One-flowered Pyrola. Identifying and protecting these species helps ensure that diverse habitats such as that of the Burrillville property are sustained.

Preservation of the property strongly aligns with the state's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, which aims to identify and conserve those species in greatest need for conservation while retaining a holistic view of all wildlife within the state. Croff Farm Brook runs through the property and fosters an array of aquatic habitats that are not typically found in Rhode Island. The Croff Farm Brook area contains springs which are considered uncommon, isolated habitats, as well as several rare species identified by the conservation strategy as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

"DEM was so pleased to work in partnership with the Boy Scouts to protect this valuable habitat," said DEM Director Janet Coit. "This acquisition is particularly exciting because it will ensure that Rhode Islanders will be able to continue to use this property, a place where many scouts and others have enjoyed this spectacular natural area. Because this parcel sits within one of the largest undisturbed areas in all of Rhode Island, it is particularly valuable

for wildlife. The amount of rare and uncommon species on this property is amazing!"

The property acquired by DEM is connected to larger conservation areas that surround it, providing increased land protection in the northwest corner of the state.

"The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is proud to work with our longtime partners the DEM and Champlin Foundations to assist with the conservation of this very important property," said TNC State Director Terry Sullivan. "The forests in the northwest of our state provide so many benefits to the people of RI, including wonderful recreation opportunities, protection of freshwater supplies and room for wildlife to thrive. It is perfectly fitting that this place, where so many young men learned to appreciate the importance of nature, will now be protected for many more generations of Rhode Islanders to enjoy."

John H. Mosby, Scout Executive/CEO, Narragansett Council Boy Scouts of America said, "We are pleased to collaborate with the Department of Environmental Management to preserve this important habitat and protect the many rare species living in this part of the state. The Boy Scouts of America has always been a leader in conservation, and has been teaching our Scouts about Leave No Trace camping since 1910, so it is only natural that we would work with the DEM to put those ideals into practice in Rhode Island. As one of the largest land conservation organizations in Rhode Island, we are proud to be able to continue our century-old tradition of providing protected environments for our Scouts to enjoy and learn about through our Scouting educational programs."

The State's contribution to this conservation project from voter approved bond funds accounted for less than 10 percent of the total purchase price. The total cost of the acquisition was \$900,000. DEM provided \$83,000 from state Open Space Bond funds, \$367,000 was provided by a federal wildlife incentive grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$450,000 came from grant funds provided by The Nature Conservancy and The Champlin Foundations.

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The fracked gas & oil fueled power plant proposed by the Governor for Burrillville, RI is right in the middle of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor U. S. National Park. With over 20 bodies of water, 26 Conservation Land Areas, 25 State Recreation Areas, 15 Historic Districts, 8 State Conservation Areas, many Campgrounds & Youth Camps in a 5 miles radius, this is no place for a new power plant!

Visit www.keeprhodeislandbeautiful.com to learn more.

