

Burrillville Town Council

State of Rhode Island
Public Utilities Commission
Energy Facilities Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Mike and Joyce Scurka
40 Wolf Hill RD
Pascoag, RI 02859

RE: RI SB 2015-06
Invenergy Thermal Development, LLC.
Clear River Energy Center
Town of Burrillville, RI

MTBE is no joke it is a toxic cancer causing carcinogen. Many people in this room were already exposed to this carcinogen in our drinking water; it's not only harmful to human life but all life. We demand that we are never exposed to it again.

Some people seem to be missing the point of the MTBE contaminated water that INVENERGY plans on using in their power plant. Since the last public meeting with the sighting board there's been a lot of talk about the MTBE contamination and how it will be cleaned up. INVENERGY and Burrillville sewer commission claim that because they will be discharging the water at 200 micrograms per liter from their power plant, which is 5 times above the RI Dept. of health standards for safe drinking water, and then by the time it flows through the Burrillville wastewater treatment facility and discharged into clear/ branch river its level will be around 20 ug/l. How are they getting the water to such a level? Remember according to their numbers they will not be filtering the water. Here's the math, the power plant has indicated a maximum discharge concentration of 200 ug/l and an average flow of 96,480 gallons per day. Assuming the current Burrillville waste water has an average flow of 887,500 gpd by dilution the Burrillville waste water end product would be assumed to be 20 ug/l, a dilution factor of 10. Remember the level of contamination going into the plant is without INVENERGY ever having to filter the water because it will be under their limit of 55 ug/l.

THE KEY WORD IS DILUTION! THERE NOT CLEANING THE WATER! IT'S JUST BEING DILUTED!

If diluting the contaminated water by dumping it into the Burrillville waste water treatment facility is the proper and morally responsible thing to do then why haven't we been doing this all along? We have the ability to pipe the water in to the sewer system where it gets diluted with the 900,000 GPD of other

waste water. It then would even have less of a concentration as ENVENERGYs proposal? We don't because it would be morally wrong. I'm not an expert on EPA's regulations but probably legally wrong as well! This is not a byproduct from the power plant INVENERGY is knowingly using MTBE contaminated water, and dumping it into clear/branch River. If it wasn't for INVENERGY's use of the well water the MTBE would not be discharged into the river!

The most recent research data I found on flow rates and MTBE contamination rates was in a report back in 2006. What are the concentrations now? Has INVENERGY or Pascoag water done any research on the well recently? What are the concentrations of MBTE when they are pumping 1 million GPD and what will they be 6 months down the road, a year? They claim they can run on oil up to 60 days a year that would be 60 million gallons of water, what will the MTBE concentrations be then, and can you physically treat that much water in 60 days? Will the concentration of MBTE be so high that it can't properly be treated? THAT'S A LOT OF WATER TO FILTER!! Is it even possible? What size would the filters have to be, how many? These Questions need to be answered. We cannot go forward with this without all the facts. You need facts not assumptions to make clear, intelligent and accurate decisions.

Of course I want the well cleaned up but again this not the correct and morally responsible way to do it! If ENVENERGY is going to clean the well, as they say they will, then make them do it correctly and not just pump it down stream and make it someone else's problem. I recently took a canoe trip down the branch river from the canoe launch at the waterfall in Harrisville to Uncle Ronnie's restaurant in Nasonville, as I have done many, many times before. It's a beautiful trip you should all try it. As I was paddling I passed a couple of residences that were dumping their yard waste and trash into the river, one resident in particular is dumping so much trash and yard waste in the river that it is disgusting, and they will be contacted to clean it up. They must have the same mentality as INVENERGY; dump it in the river no one cares. Well I care, the only difference between INVENERGY and this homeowner is that you can't see the toxic contamination MTBE.

We the people of Pascoag do not want another MTBE contaminated well, or this toxic chemical dispersed threw out town. I hesitate to bring it up but, Flint Michigan water problem was caused with good intentions as well. Why would we ever take that chance!

Questions I would like answers to are.

1. So what is INVENERGY'S intent? Will they clean the water completely of MTBE or just to a level so they can legally dump it as industrial wastewater?
2. Why is INVENERGY knowingly using MTBE contaminated water and just adding that to their industrial wastewater discharge, they have the ability to not use contaminated water in the first place?
3. Dose INVENERGY have any flow rates and MTBE contamination data on the well in question and if they do can they please share that info with our community?

4. Why would INVENERGY pump MTBE contaminated water from the center of Pascoag to the power plant? Then discharge the same MTBE contaminated water, now over 4 times concentrated, from the power plant to sewage treatment plant in Mapleville? Why would INVENERGY ever risk contaminating another well in town, isn't ONE of the worst MTBE contaminated wells in the country enough?
5. Because INVENERGY is knowingly using MTBE contaminated water and directly discharging it into Clear River, will they do an Environmental Impact Study of Clear/ Branch River?