

Bianco, Todd (PUC)

From: Tom Sylvester <catdonto1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 7:27 PM
To: Outreach, Gov (GOV)
Cc: rep-keable@rilin.state.ri.us; sen-fogarty@rilegislature.gov; Bianco, Todd (PUC)
Subject: Proposed Power Plant in Burrillville - MTBE Water

Hi:

I am a plaintiff in the court order closing of the Pascoag MTBE wells in 2001 by Judge Fortunato.

I gave testimony and was present when the judge gave his ruling. Counsel representing DEM asked that the final order allow access for remediation of the wells. Wording of the final order was crafted to shut down the wells yet allow DEM access only to remediate them. It was not be used as "a water source" which is what the power plant seeks to do.

During the crisis the Pascoag Utility District tried a carbon filtration system which failed with MTBE "break troughs" after the carbon became saturated with contaminants.

What is plan "B" for the plants water source when issues arise in the filtering of the water? How will the plant be able to meet their contractual obligations to supply power if there is no alternative source for water? How will they be monitored & held responsible for these actions during operation?

In the past 15 years since the crisis the Pasoag Utility District has been unable to find a suitable well site for a water source to replace the contaminated wells. This is evidence that the addition of any major water use project in Burrillville must be fully studied before being given approval.

The site contamination was the worst in US history. DEM continued site remediation for a short period of time until funding was no longer available. At this point the state effectively abandoned remediation in Pascoag. In doing so the option of using the wells as a water source for anything was abandoned by previous administrations.

All pipelines leak. This will be true of the line to be installed bringing water from the well to the power plant. This will spread contamination to unsuspecting homeowners with private wells in the area. MTBE evaporates from water and is ingested by breathing. Water discharged from the plant will have MTBE in it which will evaporate and be breathed in.

Official "MTBE drinking water guidelines" are crafted to deal with situations after emergencies arise. After a home doesn't have potable water for 60 Days the Health Department is supposed to revoke its "Certificate of Occupancy". If public health policy stated "no level is safe" every community affected by it would have to order people out of their homes until a suitable alternative was found.

MTBE is made from by products of the oil refining process. It is a known carcinogen. Long term exposure should be avoided at all costs if life is valued. There is no safe level of MTBE.

I oppose the opening the MTBE Contaminated wells to be used as a water source for the plant.

I also oppose infrastructural development which tie us to fossil fuels and ignores global warming.

Respectfully,

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