

Thomas Trimble

As I said at the last hearing, I am from Pascoag

My family ancestors, along with so many others, were drawn to the area from far off places to work in the textile mills that sprang up along our rivers.

Let me take you back to my boyhood days of the 1960's.

In those days, the village of Pascoag was quite the place to live. It's five textile mills supported businesses in the village - a movie theatre, new car dealer, bowling alley, clothing and jewelry store and seven gas stations. Today, none of those exist.

I mention these things as a way of illustration to show that Pascoag, as well as the whole of Burrillville, has evolved with the times into a rural town with affordable housing but, most of all, provides families who have lived here for generations, as well as those seeking a better life for their families who have chosen to move here over my lifetime, to take advantage of its open spaces, clean air and opportunities of the ~~woods, streams.~~ *our rural setting.*

People chose to call Burrillville home. They either choose to remain here, such as myself, or chose to come here to settle. We chose to separate from the urban sprawl of the cities, we accept that we will be far from the amenities of the city. We have become a bedroom community of not only the Providence metropolitan area but that of Boston, as well. In doing so, we don't expect the things that define urban life - noise, pollution, traffic - to come here. We have settle here because of the quality of life.

Burrillville has changed during the last 100 years. But, as of this day, I am glad to say that, for the most part, the great woodlands of the Northwest Corner and those of bordering states have not. They remain as they were when I was young. Still the same dirt roads, streams and lakes.

The whole forested area of the western part of our state is worth preserving. Burrillville is not the place to locate a large energy generating facility.

We have seen a resurgence of wildlife. Beavers and wild turkeys are back. Black bear also venture down from the north. In fact, they have ventured all the way down to Ninegret Park on the coast in Charlestown. How? Show picture of the corridor.

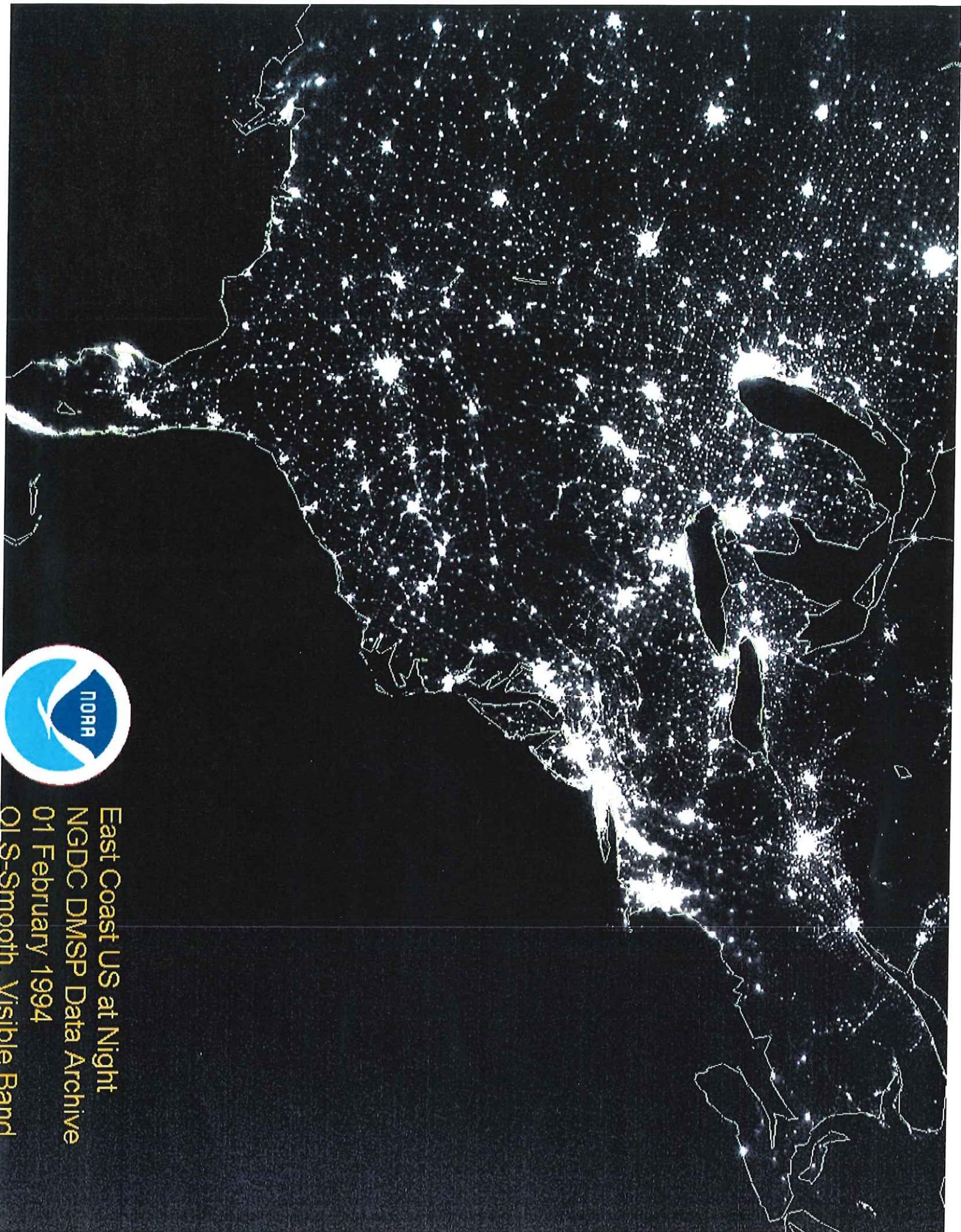
And, the rivers have changed for the better. The Clear River of my day wasn't that clear. Household sewers drained into the river throughout its run all the way through our town. And, the mills would dump their waste too. Some days, the river would run red, other days, blue, or whatever the color of the day was.

The Clear River has been transformed due to the Clean Water act of 1977 and *efforts of* concerned state and town officials, who ~~town~~ worked hard to clean it ~~up~~ to the point where it can support species of fish such as trout and is clean enough for recreational use.

Don't bring the problems of the city to us. Just because the pipeline conveniently passes through the corner of our state, or certain *individuals* ~~members~~ of our town have rolled out the welcome mat, doesn't mean in the least that the community as a whole is in favor of this ill conceived plan.

Allowing this 900 magawatt gas-fired power plant in these forested lands would be taking a giant step backwards, in my view.

The great Northwest Woods are worth preserving so that other generations who seek to settle out here, or those seeking a respite from our cities can find the way nature intended.



East Coast US at Night
NGDC DMSP Data Archive
01 February 1994
O1-S-Smooth Visible Band