

Jan Luby  
403 Sayles Avenue  
Pascoag, Rhode Island

May 23, 2016

Energy Facility Siting Board  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Re: SC-2015-06 Invenergy Clear River Energy Center Public Comment

Dear Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board:

Thank you for coming to Burrillville again to hear public comment.

On a local level:

The proposed Invenergy power plant location is right in the middle of what is called "The Quiet Corner" by tourism councils in this area: this western corner of Rhode Island into Eastern CT, and MA to our north. This area includes Buck Hill and Black Hut Management areas, George Washington State Park and Wildlife Management area, Douglas State Park, Quaddick State Forest and Pulaski State Park and Wildlife Refuge. Within this area are Wallum Lake, Echo Lake, Wilson Reservoir, White Mill Pond, Wakefield Pond, Round Pond, Cedar Swamp Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Croff Farm Brook, Dry Arm Brook, to name a few, all within a 2 mile radius of the proposed site. There are natural springs on the proposed site and plant and wildlife species abound, including the northern spring salamander and 2 rare turtle species, the Spotted Turtle and the Wood Turtle, which is being considered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a federally protected species. The above depend on fresh water and un-fragmented forest tracts. As for rare plant species, the dewdrop is listed as "historical" in RI, meaning, not seen for several years, except for in this area.

As you know, this site was already rejected in 1988 for the siting of a power plant for these and other reasons after an Environmental Impact Study was completed.

According to the John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission "Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment" done in 1998 and supported by The National Parks Service, the "forests of Douglas, MA, western Burrillville and Glocester, RI are forestlands that have not been logged since the 1950s, and some have not been logged since 1910...The Rhode Island portion is the largest contiguous forest in the state." It is also home to rare plant and invertebrate species: *"Wallum Lake (Douglas/Burrillville, 61): an example of southern New England basin marsh and acidic seepage swamp. A rare plant species can be found along the western lake shore. This site is threatened by the death of cedars from unknown causes. Buck Hill Management Area (Burrillville, 62): a State Management area containing great blue heron nesting sites. Croff Farm Brook (Burrillville, 63): a Boy Scout and State*

*Management area containing a concentration of northern plant species in a white cedar/black spruce swamp. Cedar Swamp Pond (Burrillville, 64): southern New England basin swamp with rare invertebrate in swampy areas along the western shore of the pond. Fresh water springs also support the northern spring salamander. Clear River (Burrillville, 65): only site for some northern plant species including dew drop."*

This inventory was done when Douglas State Forest was threatened by a proposal for regional landfill, which would have threatened the forested areas in the northwest corner of RI as well. Their recommendations were to oppose the landfill and support continued land protection of the forests in this area.

Besides being a blue heron nesting site, this area is also home to the ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, various woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers and pheasant, duck, geese, cardinal, American goldfinch, Eastern wood peewee and red-eyed vireo. Also typical of this area are white-tailed deer, squirrel, chipmunks, raccoon, cottontail rabbit, red fox, various species of reptiles and amphibians – and human beings.

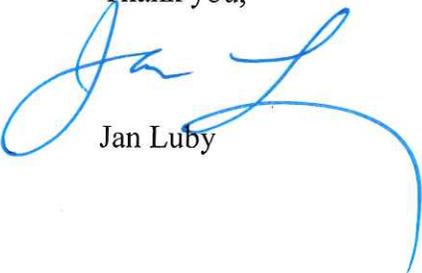
Please let's also look at the bigger picture:

According to the National Center for Environmental Information and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, globally, 2015 had not only the highest calendar year temperature but also the highest temperature for any 12 month period on record. Just this past week people were dying of record high temperatures in India and Pakistan: 51 and 52 degrees Celsius (equivalent to 123.8 and 125.6 Fahrenheit). Polar ice caps are melting, the seas are rising, and much of our state will end up under water if we don't do something to stop polluting and destroying our natural resources.

All of this begs the question: WHY!? Why would anyone, even for a moment, consider building another fracked gas power plant *anywhere*, much less in the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor? Only short-sighted people, blinded by greed and whatever financial gain they can get out of this endeavor in the short term, would consider this project.

Ms. Coit, I know you have worked on environmental issues in your work with the Nature Conservancy and presently the DEM. And you, Ms. Curran, looked me in the eye on March 31<sup>st</sup> and said this project was "not a done deal," as many of us feared. I know you have a lot of work to do, mountains of information to read. But I am confident that you will make the right decision and deny Invenergys plan to build this power plant. Because I don't think you'd be able to live with yourselves if you did otherwise.

Thank you,

  
Jan Luby