

Public Utilities Commission
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North Kingstown, RI 02852
July 1, 2016

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Committee Members,

I was unable to testify at the hearing at CCRI on June 30, 2016 regarding the need for the electricity that would be produced by the Clear River Energy Center being proposed by Invenergy in Burrillville, RI but I would like to provide comment on the topic to your committee.

As a homeowner in North Kingstown, RI I pay a surcharge on my National Grid electricity bill every month that is labeled an "energy efficiency surcharge". I am aware that this provides funds for a variety of programs designed to reduce electrical demand by increasing efficiency. Several years ago I had a free home energy audit conducted by RISE Engineering as part of this program. One of the benefits to me was that a RISE employee came to my house and replaced all of my incandescent light bulbs with CFLs for free. I thought I had already replaced all of my incandescent bulbs but it turned out I had only replaced about half of the 112 bulbs in my home. As a result my electric bill dropped significantly beginning immediately and I still am consistently within the top 30% of similar size homes in regard to energy efficiency when I receive my home energy report. When I tell people I meet about my experience nine out of ten have no idea such a program exists and many tell me they intend to take advantage of the opportunity. It has become clear to me that the energy efficiency initiative in this state lacks adequate advertisement and has therefore been less than successful. I think the energy efficiency program managers need to do their due diligence in making this program more widely publicized and utilized before the state of RI dives into the construction of such a large electrical generation facility.

As a conscientious world citizen I have always intended to incorporate the use of solar power into my home. In 2004 when I had an addition with a south facing roof put on my home I ensured the roof would be pitched at the appropriate angle for installation of solar technology flat on the surface without need for angling supports. In 2009 I began responding to advertisements for solar installation and repeatedly I was told that while the companies, and there were several I contacted, worked in MA and/or CT, they were not working in RI. I attribute this to several factors that include the business climate in RI and the fact that our state neighbors had far more aggressive programs to encourage the installation of solar energy projects many years before they were implemented in RI. Recently many of these companies have begun working in RI and tax incentives have been implemented here but there has

been no where near enough time to evaluate the efficacy of these programs in reducing RI's need for centralized gas and oil based electrical generation.

When I hear testimony from people concerned about the availability of power for charging their electronic devices I find it difficult to restrain myself from responding because there are currently a plethora of small, cost effective solar products available for providing those devices with power. I say this with confidence because I use many on a regular basis when camping. I have solar chargers to recharge batteries, power storage units that are equipped with small solar panels and flashlights that charge directly from embedded solar panels. It is clear that public education regarding the availability of such devices would be valuable in an energy demand reduction program.

Based on the professional projections of power demand in NE I have questions about whether the state of RI really needs to build this power plant. When I consider those questions in conjunction with what I see as the state of RI's failure to implement effective programs to decrease home energy demand and increase adoption of incentives for clean energy technologies such as solar and wind, I am absolutely certain it is far too soon to say the state of RI NEEDS this power plant.

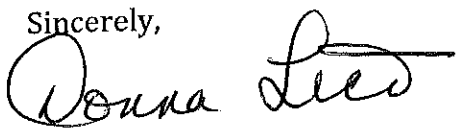
In regard to cost effectiveness; reducing home demand by increasing energy efficiency will provide significantly more direct and immediate cost savings to individuals than the construction of a power plant to produce electricity that may or may not be used here in RI. Clean energy technologies that can be installed using financial programs that offset the installation costs are long term investments that homeowners understand will bring cost savings over time.

When cost benefit is considered, another cost that must be accounted for is the increased cost of health care as a result of pollution related illnesses. Our state is known for and proud of the health and wellness programs we maintain for our most vulnerable citizens; young children. I seriously question whether programs like RiteCare will be able to continue to function on limited budgets if the amount of air and water pollution our state's children are exposed to is increased. In addition, if the citizens of RI are statistically more likely to need health services as a result of the increased pollution brought by a power plant, companies evaluating the cost effectiveness of doing business in our state will be forced to include the higher cost of health insurance for employees. This would actually make RI a less desirable place to do business in the future.

There is no evidence that the state of RI needs the power or will benefit economically from the construction of the Invenergy Clear River Energy Center so I see no reasonable verdict other than a definitive "no" to this proposal.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Donna Lico