

## Bianco, Todd (PUC)

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**From:** Marina Lawton <lawtonm@husson.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2016 2:45 PM  
**To:** Bianco, Todd (PUC)  
**Subject:** NO NEW POWER PLANT IN NORTHERN RI this is urgent

Dear Mr. Bianco:

As a YOUNG resident of Burrillville, RI I am advocating AGAINST this power plant. I have lived in this town my entire life of 21 years. I have never once thought that this town would be impacted in such a destructive way. This power plant is not only going to negative effect the way the residents feel in the state as well as CT and MA, but how the environment functions. I will never live in Rhode Island again after college. Once I am graduated, I am moving FAR away and I will start a family elsewhere; somewhere that is safe, healthy, and cares about the environment. I will not be giving my tax money out of my hard earned pay checks to pay for this monstrosity of a power plant in my little quaint town. This plant is literally being constructed right behind my house. I see trucks traveling by my house every single day. They take up the road, they make terrible amounts of noise and if this is happening BEFORE the plant is even up and running, then there are going to be some serious issues when everything becomes finalized (if it ever does, and hopefully it does NOT). There are THOUSANDS of people who are 100% against this plant. This is NOT something officials can just decide to do. This is something that does not directly effect you or any other state or town officials. This effects the RESIDENTS and our FAMILIES and our FUTURES.. Our housing values are going to plummet, the wildlife will dwindle, we will not have anything special about our town any longer. Please don't do this to us.

I am appalled to hear that a huge (in fact one of the largest of its kind in all of New England) natural gas fired 1,000 Mega Watt power plant is being proposed on the state line in Burrillville, RI - bordering CT, RI, and MA. We need your help and we need it fast! Time is of the essence as the State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board will be making their final decision on whether this project ends or moves forward this September. I'm writing to ask you to join me and many other very concerned local residents of CT, RI, and MA to speak out against the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI. Show your opposition to those in RI that need to hear it. Reach out to the two person board that will make the finalize decision regarding the fate of this project and our towns. (State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board , Public Utilities Commission , 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888)

We need advocacy and for you to stand behind your residents to help keep our town a clean and healthy place to live. Below represents just some of the resident concerns with this project:

Pollution and lots of it: This area will be polluted in every sense of the word – light, noise, air, water, visual, and land. This corner of the Tristate area between RI, MA and CT will be among the towns hardest hit with its contaminants.

1. Water: This project will:

- Propose Re-opening of an old MTBE well in Burrillville, RI which was deemed 42 times the EPA amount of MTBE contaminant from a previous 2001 leakage. MTBE was even found in groundwater in the surrounding area. This well based on court decision was supposed to be capped and never used again do to the risk of further future contamination to the area. This chemical gasoline additive which is now banned over ½ the states in our country is linked to many chronic illnesses and even cancer.
- Will house a 2 million gallon oil storage tank on-site.
- Will house 40,000 gallon ammonia storage tank on-site.

- Knowing the past history of the MTBE leak in Pascoag/Burrillville – leaks and accidents happen and when they do they are catastrophic. Within a 5 mile radius of this plant there are 20 bodies of water with many properties in the neighboring towns having private wells in danger of contamination. This includes 3 local reservoirs (Wilson & Wallum in Burrillville, RI and Quaddick in Thompson, CT)
2. Air: Though indicated as a “clean” power plant alternative , this plant will :
- spew 52 known pollutants including 3 tons of formal Hazardous Pollutants into the air a year.
  - It will also produce 3.6 million tons of CO2 a year ( equivalent to 750,000 cars emissions annually – that is 2x the number of cars currently on the road in the state of RI)
3. Land –
- Up to 200 acres of forest will be destroyed for plant construction and roadways and they plan to fill at least 3 acres of existing wetlands.
  - This plant is located right on the Rhode Island state line affecting both Connecticut and Massachusetts residents just as much as its Rhode Island residents however with little to no correspondence to them to weigh in on its construction- CT and MA will just benefit from its pollution.
  - This area between Rhode Island and Connecticut already is home to multiple power plants/sub stations (substation, pipeline, and plant in Burrillville, RI and Power plant in Killingly, CT). We have already done our part to help generate power for the urban power grid. We already generate more than enough power for our local needs.
  - It also happens to be right near a 120 bed Zambarano Hospital in Rhode Island which relies on Wallum Reservoir for its water supply which adjacent to this project site.
  - Property Value Loss- This area has already been hit with multiple power plant projects, MTBE contamination to its residents and now is being asked to endure the 1,000 Mega Watt plant in their backyard. Would you want to purchase a house here after it’s built and running at full speed?
4. Noise: currently the decibel level documented in the provided proposal link indicates it will be above Burrillville ordinance limits and potentially neighboring towns as well.
5. Visual : With twin 200 ft. smoke stacks it will tower above our trees and be seen for miles
6. Light: Will glow amidst our beautiful wooded area like it’s a landing strip

The proposed Burrillville plant is a co-generating base plant which will operate close to 24/7 365 days a year and is 30% larger than Killingly, CT plant at 1,000 Mega Watts- one of the largest plant of its size in New England and the first to ever use MTBE contaminated water for its cooling towers.

Environmentally Conscience Alternatives: Obviously we all have a need for power but why are we not looking at alternatives that don’t further our reliance on fossil fuels but rather invest in more environmentally conscience alternatives? Why are we not in this day in age looking at solar/wind alternatives – sources that don’t pose such a health risk to its neighbors? If this is not possible why not put these types of power plants in already deemed brownfields or industrial areas? Why scar the limited green space, rural, forested areas we have with projects like this? I understand the convenience of its location near the a pipeline and the quick, easy, and abundant way power plants such as these generate power but should we always do what is quick, easiest and most profitable at the expense of our environment and people? We need to think smarter – the quick fix of today is the catastrophe of the future.

We need legislators, representatives and council members to inform its residents and voice their opposition to the Clear River Energy Project. We need your help to influence those that are responsible for the decision making of this project.

Please reach out to the two person board that will make the final decision on whether this project ends or moves forward- decisions are planned to be made by this September. The two person siting board is: State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board , Public Utilities Commission , 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888.

Please note there are only 2 more public hearings by the Siting Board and they are:

- May 10th -Burrillville Middle School - 2220 Broncos Highway Harrisville, Rhode Island 02830
- May 23rd at 6pm at Burrillville High School - 425 East Ave, Harrisville, Rhode Island 02830

Sincerely,  
Marina Lawton

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**Marina Lawton**  
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Husson University  
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