

Norman P. Desjarlais

86 Laurel Ridge Ave Pascoag, RI | 401-651-3940 | norman.desjarlais@yahoo.com

May 10, 2016

Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board

Dear Board Members

I realize that there are many residents that wish to be heard and a limited amount of time at each meeting to hear testimony.

In the event that I do not have a chance to speak, please accept the attached letter entitled History Of The Facility Siting Board as my public testimony.

Please enter it for the record and consider it in your deliberations.

Should you have further questions or I can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me,

Thank you for serving in what has to be a difficult position.

Sincerely,

Norman P. Desjarlais

HISTORY OF THE FACILITIES SITING BOARD regarding proposed Invenergy power plant.

During the 1980's the nation was experiencing great shortfalls between energy produced and energy demand.

Large portions of the United States were experiencing rolling brown outs and frequent blackouts.

New plant construction was at a virtual standstill due to "not in my back yard" syndrome.

The Federal Government urged States to take action to break the blockade and approve projects that are necessary, meet the public need, and meet a list of criteria.

This board was set up by our Legislators to be independent of political pressure, and are appointed from within the three agencies representing the board. Planning, Environmental, and Public Utilities.

Our Legislators drafted the Energy Facilities Siting Act in a way that would address the future changes in events as well as the crisis situation the Board was formed during. The board is not only tasked with approving unpopular energy projects that are needed, but they are also tasked with protecting the public and the environment from projects that are not critical and will not be in the best interest's of the residents and our natural resources.

The residents are still suffering from the effects of the MBTE contamination, including cancers of many kinds in great disproportion to the national average, many believe it is a direct result of the contamination from the very well this project is planning on using, a well ordered sealed by the Rhode Island Courts, not to mention that they want to place it in the middle of a primary recreation and environmentally important wetlands and aquifer.

During times such as we find ourselves today, without a shortage of energy in the region, the project must meet the criteria outlined in the EFSB Charter. The extensive environmental concerns, failure to look at expanding existing facilities and or existing dormant sites, lack of CLEAN water just to name a few, Demands a rejection by this Board per your own Charter.

Clearly, the Board is NOT a rubber stamp for Greed Not Need based projects, no matter how many politicians are for it.

The Public good is not served by a plant that is not needed and will cause so much damage to an area that has been called by many State and Federal agencies over the last three decades as one of the most important natural environments in RI to protect as you will see in other evidence you will here. There has been a public uproar and a cry for someone to do something, including changing the law.

Unlike most, I believe that our past Legislators did a very good job ensuring that the powers of the board are limited, and spell out what must be done, both in times of need and times of plenty.

When you have reviewed the mountains of evidence and testimony against this project, I believe it will be obvious that this is a situation of GREED NOT NEED.

I believe you will follow the letter and spirit of the Charter that you operate under and reject this proposal.

Norman Desjarlais, Burrillville Resident