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April 13, 2016

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board

My name is Heather Santos and though I'm not a Rhode Island resident, I am your Connecticut neighbor who is a life-long and 4th generation Thompson, CT resident. I am a mother of two young children, live a healthy lifestyle, and take pride in my home and the town in which I live. For 14 years my husband and I commuted the 3 hours round trip to Boston, MA (which he still does) for work because we choose to endure the long commute home so we can live in a beautiful small rural town (much like your area towns in Rhode Island) where access to natural resources, forests, and clean air still exist.

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 literally 3 miles from me just over the state line in Burrillville, RI - right near the state line of CT, RI, and MA. I'm writing to ask you to join me and many other very concerned local residents of CT, RI, and MA vote no on the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI. You hold the fate of this project and our towns in your decision.

We need advocacy and for you to stand behind your residents to help keep our area towns in RI, CT and MA a clean and healthy place to live.

Pollution and lots of it: This area will be polluted in every sense of the word – light, noise, air, water, visual, and land. Please see attached map image (at the end of this letter) of the Tristate area to see how far reaching the pollution will be and the towns hardest hit with its containments.

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

State of Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board

April 13, 2016

Page 2

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? My family owns a house on Quaddick Lake in Thompson, the 2 smoke stacks that will be visible over the trees and the turbine sound echoing over the lake will certainly effect property values.

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

April 13, 2016

Page 3

You may be familiar with another local power plant in nearby Killingly, CT - Comparison to Killingly, CT power plant:

- Killingly, CT is home to a “peaker plant” which only operates when electricity is in high demand and is a 757 Mega Watt plant.
- 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.

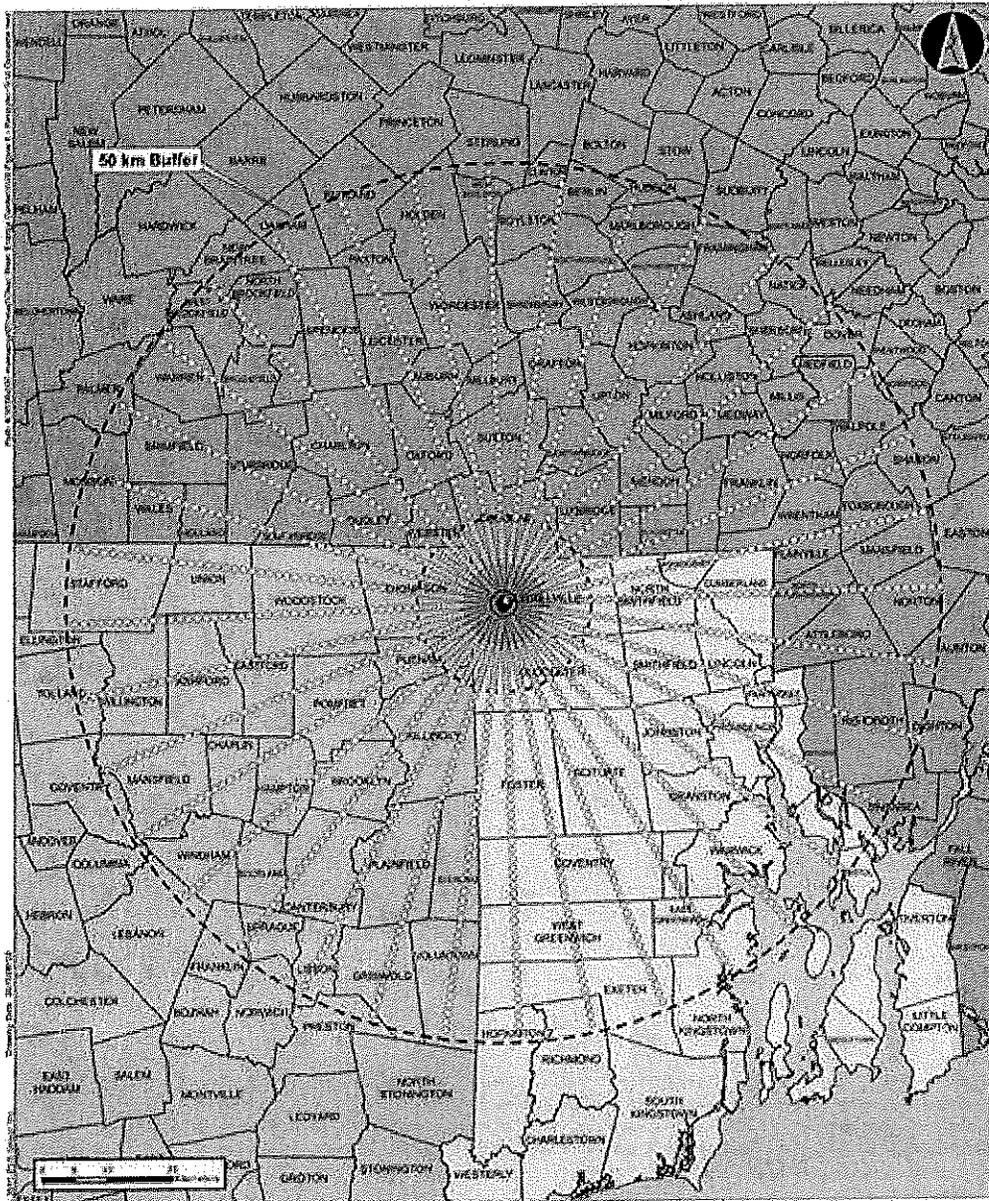
Sincerely,



Heather Santos

April 13, 2016

Page 4



**Clear River Energy Center
Burnsville, Rhode Island**

3 inch x 65,500 feet

Source: 1) ESRI Imagery, 2014
2) MCM, Data Layout, 2013
3) RCRC, Base, 2013

Receptor Grid Overview

Figure 6

April 13, 2016

Page 5

Keep Burrillville Beautiful No New Power Plant!

The 1000 Megawatt Power Plant powered by "legacy" Gas/Oil Fossil Fuel proposed for Burrillville Rhode Island would result in the unnecessary industrialization of our rural region and neighborhoods.

52
known pollutants

52 known pollutants spewed from twin 200 foot tall stacks including 3 Tons of formal Hazardous Pollutants a year and 3.6 Million tons of CO2 a year endangering the health of our families.

85K
people

Over 85,000 people live in communities directly surrounding the proposed plant including; Burrillville RI, Gloucester RI, N. Smithfield RI, Uxbridge MA, Douglas MA, Thompson CT, and Putnam CT.

85
local areas

At least 85 thriving environmental areas of impact within a 5 mile radius including, 20 bodies of water, 26 Conservation Land Areas, 25 State Recreation Areas, 15 Historic Districts, 8 State Conservation areas, and many Campgrounds and Youth Camps.

200
acres

At least 200 acres of beautiful interior forest clearcut combined significantly impacting local habitats and displacing over 165 distinct wildlife species including 2 threatened species.

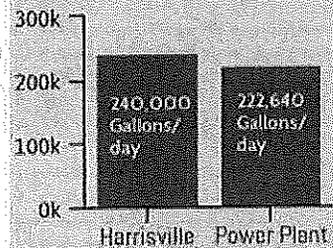
222K
gallons

222,640 Gallons of Water a Day (924,489 peak) will be drawn through an MTBE contaminated well posing significant risk by the release of carcinogenic contaminants while also draining precious water resources from local aquifers and rivers.

2M
gallons

2 Million gallon tank for storage of oil to be burned during peak periods in winter = higher levels of pollution and water usage in addition to 40,000 gallon tank for ammonia stored on site.

The plant is projected to consume as much water a day as the entire Harrisville District.



"water supplied to the Project from PUD's well #3A should be considered to decrease the water flow available in the Clear River and for the purposes of this analysis it will be assumed that there is a one for one reduction in the Clear River flow"

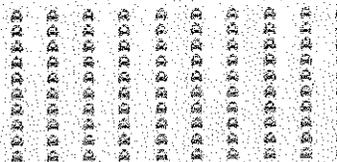
*From the Clear River Energy Project Application, 10/27/15 page 51

3,626,113 Tons of Additional Carbon Dioxide Emitted Annually

38%

Approximate increase in annual energy related Rhode Island CO2 emissions

*Based on 2013 data from U.S. Energy Information Administration



Equivalent of 750,000 cars. (Almost 2x the number of cars in RI)

*Based on car emissions for estimate from EPA website for Rhode Island vehicles from U.S. Dept Office of Highway Information

"It would be impossible to ever meet the carbon-emission-reduction goals of the Resilient Rhode Island Act"

Jerry Elmer, Senior Counsel with Conservation Law Foundation

Brook J. O'Neil January 10, 2015 plus a dozen wrong directions, The Providence Journal

Would you want this in YOUR backyard?

Burrillville already has one power plant. For all of this damage and risk Rhode Island would get: 300 non-guaranteed temporary jobs over three years, approximately 24 full time jobs, a modest non-guaranteed reduction in utility bills, and marginal per person tax benefits. The citizens of neighboring Uxbridge, MA defeated a plant proposal. Tell our elected officials that Rhode Island does not need this kind of investment that destroys local habitats and puts the health of hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

The RISK to our children, their future, and our environment is not worth the REWARD.



Contact your leaders today!
Get educated & sign the petition!



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facebook.com/norixburrillvillepowerplant



www.KeepBurrillvilleBeautiful.org
www.norixburrillvillepowerplant.com

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