

March 31, 2008

Billerica Board of Selectmen
365 Boston Road
Billerica, MA 01821

RE: Proposed Billerica Energy Center

Gentlemen:

The Chelmsford Board of Health, like so many of the other communities surrounding Billerica, is concerned with your pending approval of the construction within Billerica of the Billerica Energy Center. Therefore, we wish to make you aware of our serious reservations with the potential environmental impact of the proposed Energy Center. Our most significant and specific concerns relate to the potential for pollution of the Concord River, as well as the wells of the East Chelmsford Water District and Chelmsford Center Water District which may be in close proximity to the Energy Center location, and the inevitable air pollution. We understand that the final Air Quality and Health Evaluation has yet to be filed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and our current positions are based upon the information made available to us to date. These positions are subject to revision as information is made available to us.

Our concerns with the potential pollution of the Concord River and Chelmsford water wells takes into consideration the possibility that the Energy Center may on occasion be required to run on it's alternative fuel source, diesel oil, and the risks associated with the accidental discharge of diesel oil into the soil. While we understand the storage tanks are going to be encased, and surrounded by a dike, we would suggest that diesel oil is not the most appropriate primary alternative fuel source, and that if an alternative fuel source is necessary, that other safer and less volatile alternative fuel be considered. The close proximity of the Energy Center to an existing capped hazardous waste landfill should also be fully considered to assure that the construction of the Energy Center will not disrupt that site, thereby releasing pollutants in to the groundwater.

We acknowledge, but do not generally accept the position of DG CLEAN POWER LLC that the Energy Center will not greatly compromise the quality of air. We are greatly concerned with the impact of any resulting increase in the discharge of “fine particulate matter” and other pollutants into the air during the operation of the Energy Center. While the projected concentrations are below the current standards, even a limited examination of recent asthma related studies and documentation reveals a marked increase in asthma and asthma related deaths over the last decade or more. This is generally attributed to the increased discharge of fine particulate matter into the environment. Dr. Ernest Wu, one of the members of our board is a pediatrician and has personal knowledge of this increase in asthma among children over the last ten to fifteen years. Increased fine particle matter has also, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, been demonstrated to make lakes and streams acidic, deplete nutrients in soil, and generally and adversely affect the diversity of ecosystems. Examining the immediate geographical areas surrounding the proposed Energy Center, the possibility of such contamination cannot be ignored.

We are certain that you share our concerns and in your consideration of the permitting of this Energy Station we would expect you to cause CLEAN POWER LLC to provide you and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs with sufficient, fully documented and current information concerning the potential water and air pollution. We further expect that if you elect to permit the Energy Center, that you also require DG CLEAN POWER LLC to construct the power plant in strict compliance with the highest of standards now available, and available through to the completion of the construction, without regard to the additional expense to DG CLEAN POWER LLC. This may require that you compel DG CLEAN POWER LLC to reimburse the Town of Billerica for the cost of a consultant to be responsible to oversee and report to you on the construction on a regular basis. This consultant shall report solely to the Town of Billerica on all new technologies and strategies available applicable to the construction and operation of such power plants. We also urge you to compel DG CLEAN POWER LLC, and any successors in interest to DG CLEAN POWER LLC in the operation of the Energy Center, as a condition of such permitting, to agree to routinely upgrade and improve the physical plant and its operations so that the Energy Center is at all times in compliance with the new technologies and strategies. DG CLEAN POWER LLC should not consider the permitting of the Energy Center as a “grandfathering” of the operation to current standards. If the Energy Center is to be constructed, it should be built as the best and “greenest” of its kind, a prototype for the future construction of similar plants, and one that would make CLEAN ENERGY LLC proud. The interests of the residents of both of our communities demand no less of you.

Finally we suggest that as a condition of the permitting, that you compel DG CLEAN POWER LLC to install within all surrounding communities, stations suitable for the identification and monitoring of any increase in pollutants subsequent to the construction of the Energy Center.

The decision you are being asked to make cannot be made in a vacuum, since it will impact Billerica as well as all surrounding towns. The interests and concerns of the surrounding towns must be factored into your discussion. While we do not presume to tell you what is or is not in the best interest of Billerica and its residents, it is our responsibility to alert you to our concerns, since you alone are in a position to suitably address the same. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the Energy Center on the population of the Town of Chelmsford, and ask that you keep us informed of the permitting process and provide us with copies of such reports as you or the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs may develop or which may come into your possession.

With Regards,

Peter Dulchinos
Chairman
Chelmsford Board of Health

cc: Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs