



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town Offices

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March 10, 2008

COPY

Mr. Ian Bowles, Secretary
Energy and Environmental Affairs
9th Fl, 100 Cambridge St
Boston MA 02114
Via Fax: 617-727-9725

Re: Proposed Construction, Billerica Energy Center (BEC)

Dear Secretary Bowles:

At its February 25, 2008 regular public meeting, the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to oppose the proposed siting of a 348 Megawatt power plant in Billerica, MA. We took this action after extensive review of the information currently available, which included hearing detailed presentations from BEC proponents and citizens who are opposed to the siting. Chelmsford citizens and other local area residents have expressed legitimate concerns about the location of this large industrial operation in a densely populated residential area. Residents deserve to have their questions concerning potential impacts on the local environment, air quality, and public safety answered by an independent authority before the State licenses this plant for operation.

Montgomery Energy Billerica Power Partners LLC has engaged DG Clean Power to market the Plant in the most favorable light. DG clean Power has portrayed the Plant as urgently needed to address current and future local power demands, and has promoted the Plant as a state-of-the-art, clean fuel burning plant that will have minimal effects on the community.

While we accept that today's new power plants may be more environmentally sound than those built in the past, the evidence we have reviewed challenges DG's assurances that this project will have virtually no negative local impact. Any industrial operation that potentially emits significant quantities of CO2 and particulates into the atmosphere, stores hazardous materials on site with no affirmative commitment to 24 x 7 manning and management control, and is sited near an important area water source is of immediate concern to local residents. We feel that it is the responsibility of state and local regulatory authorities to ensure that a full examination and public presentation of the facts by recognized independent experts in the areas of air quality, land use and conservation, and hazmat incident control validates DG Power's assertions of "minimal impact on the environment and the community" before any favorable action is taken on the building of this plant.

Specifically, we ask you to consider the following:

- The availability of additional power capacity for the immediate region has been questioned. There are indications that this plant's production will be directed primarily to other regions. It is

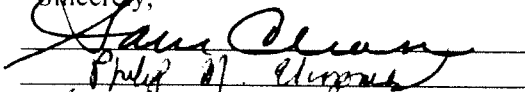
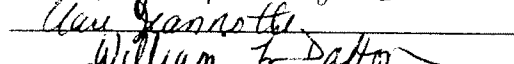
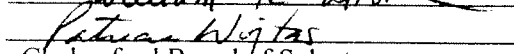
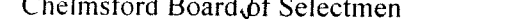
unreasonable to ask local residents to accept the potential risk of proximity without a reasonable assurance that they will benefit directly and substantially from the plant's production.

- The risk to the community that may result from the storage of hazardous materials at an unmanned site must be addressed. This is a primary public safety concern, especially in a post-911 era. At the very least, the proponents should be required to address potential hazmat incidents, and to have detailed formal emergency response measures and procedures in place, coordinated with state and local officials, that will adequately protect area residents. Chelmsford's public safety and health organizations must be involved in the development and planning of incident response procedures.
- Questions concerning the amount of harmful emissions from the plant's smokestacks must be answered satisfactorily. That the proponent has asked for authority to operate 2300 hours per year with an allowance for 200 hours of operation on diesel fuel raises serious questions as to the potential impact on air quality. Many Chelmsford residents who live within a five mile radius of the proposed siting are afflicted with ailments that are exacerbated by any decrease in air quality. They deserve independent validation that they will be able to "breathe easy" if this plant is ultimately sited.

We acknowledge and appreciate that this issue is within state and local (Billerica) permitting control and that you and local officials in Billerica and other communities have not yet completed that review process. However, in the absence of independently verified conclusive evidence that (1) there is a proven need for additional peak capacity to supply local Merrimack Valley residents, and that these residents will directly benefit from the majority of the plant's production, (2) there will be little or no negative impact on the local environment/infrastructure as a result of the proposed siting, and (3) the plant's proposed siting will not substantially adversely impact local residential property values, we will remain opposed to the siting or operation of this power plant in our local area.

Thank you for your consideration. Should substantive and verifiable evidence be presented in the future indicating that the construction of this power plant will have little or no adverse impact to area residents, we will be happy to reevaluate our position at that time.

Sincerely,


Paul J. Higgins

Alan Gannotta

William F. Dalton

Patricia Wiggins
Chelmsford Board of Selectmen

Cc: Energy Facilities Siting Board Members
Mr. J. Fitzpatrick, CEO DG Clean Power
Office of the Governor, Deval Patrick
Northern Middlesex Council of Government
State Representatives: J. Miceli
B. Greene
G. Hall
T. Golden
D. Nangle
State Senate: S. Fargo
Billerica Board of Selectmen
P. Cohen, Chelmsford Town Manager