LA CUNA DE AZTLAN
SACRED SITES PROTECTION CIRCLE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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CALIF ENERGY COMMISSION

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RECEIVED IN DOCKETS

02-AFC-01

March 20, 2005

California Energy Commission
1516 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Sacred Sites Protection Circle Against Blythe Energy Plant #2

Dear Counsel,

As a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation and President of La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle, we are totally opposed to the construction of the proposed Blythe Energy Plant #2.

With all the evidence and testimonies presented during the CEC public workshop held in Blythe, CA on Oct. 4, 2004, opposing this proposed second plant, we thought that for sure the CEC would deny the Blythe Energy Plant application. We were able to hear some very shocking evidence from Mr. Terry Griffin of the Federal Aviation Administration and Mr. Gary Cathey, Chief Aviation Safety Officer from the Dept. of Transportation Division of Aeronatic.

It is said that the Blythe Airport is the only airport in the United States that has been subjected to such extreme dangerous conditions whereby a power plant obstructs the runway for landing and taking off, which, by the way, is in total violation of FAA regulations!

Thanks to the testimonies of Pat Wolfe of the Blythe Airport and several other pilots who expressed their concern as they related their own horrifying experiences during take off flying over the current Blythe Energy Plant when it was in operation. These testimonies validate those provided by Mr. Griffen and Mr. Cathey. The commission also read correspondences from other pilots whom have also experienced similar conditions of instability and difficulties they have encountered while flying over the plant during their take offs.

During the final discussion at the public workshop in Oct., the meeting eventually led to discussions on how to remedy the grave situation that the plant poses for the pilots of the Blythe Airport and general public.

It was the opinion of most of the agencies present, including the federal, state, county agencies, that the Blythe Airport relocate their runaway or the Blythe Energy Plant removed the cooling ponds and towers. No one knew how much money it was going to cost to construct a new runway, but the real issue was what was more important to the community of the Palo Verde Valley, the state, and the nation. Was it the Blythe Airport or the Blythe Energy Plant?

When negotiations for the first plant were being discussed with the first BEP representatives, it was stated that the citrus orchards near the construction site would not be destroyed because of the water rights. Today, in these same orchards, no one is picking lemons because most of the orchards were destroyed because of the water rights. The water for the orchards went to the plant. Though this was what the BEP had planned all along, they never communicated this to the community. They never told the truth.

Currently, even the ranch supervisors of Sun World, the owners of the orchards, are commuting to Coachella Valley to work there. Four years ago, there were over four hundred citrus pickers working in the Sun World orchards here in Blythe. These workers are legal residents who have lived most of their lives here in Mesa Verde and who own their home and pay taxes. Today, they are in the unemployment lines.

Besides the plant built in the path of the Blythe Airport runway, the loss of citrus picker jobs, the lack of water to the Mesa Verde Community, and the total rejection of the 2,800 signatures on petitions against the plant, the plant was also built on top of an indigenous Sacred Site. The plant was built on top of the most sacred site of the Creation Story, which is where the East-West trail crosses the North-South trail that forms the four directions. (The BLM archaeologist, Boma Johnson, confirmed the Sacred Site in his report.) The Creator's chair is just one mile east of the Blythe Airport and the Creator's image (geoglyphs) is two miles northeast of the runaway of the Blythe Airport. Thanks to our traditional elders and the Aztec Codex, we can prove the facts of the sacred sites.

The Palo Verde Valley Times did a terrific job covering the toxic gas leak at the Blythe Energy Plant that happened on Saturday morning, Sept. 25, 2004, in its Sept. 29th edition. It even had a follow-up article "Wake up and Smell the Ammonia" We thank the Creator that the anhydrous ammonia that was leaking didn't create a fatal disaster. And thanks to the few community persons that presented testimonies of the disaster. At the meeting, it was never mentioned who was going to pay the thousands of dollars in lost wages to the Correctional officers that lost four hours of work because of the closure of 1-10 freeway from Indio to Blythe. Even Commissioner Housman of the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) said that the construction of a second plant at the same location is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for land use around an airport based on aviation that has been impacted by the first power plant.

With the recent Metropolitan Water District purchase of 33000 acre feet of Palo Verde Valley water, we don't need any more destruction of our agriculture land due to the lack of water.

Mesa Verde needs potable drinking water sewer, streets etc., not another Power Plant. We all know the grave situation that America is currently under going. The Federal Home Security Department needs the Blythe Airport as a backup, in case of terrorist attacks in the urban areas. Our Sacred Site Protection Circle is willing to go and make a presentation in Sacramento with the facts of our research. We don't need another power plant. We need your help in making sure the California Energy Commission does not approve a second plant.

Sincerely,

Gilbert L. Leivas

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