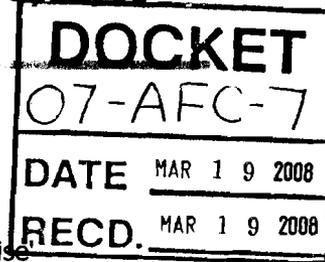


Docket Optical System - Community Power 07-AFC-7, Article from the 3/11/08 edition of the 'Selma Enterprise'

From: Che McFarlin
To: Docket Optical System
Date: 3/19/2008 4:16 PM
Subject: Community Power 07-AFC-7, Article from the 3/11/08 edition of the 'Selma Enterprise'



Please docket the attached article for the Community Power Project 07-AFC-7. This article appeared in the 3/11/08 edition of the 'Selma Enterprise' paper.

>>> infoweb@newsbank.com> 3/19/2008 3:26 PM >>

Powering pollution?

Selma Enterprise (CA) - March 11, 2008

Author: Beth Warmerdam ; bwarmerdam@selmaenterprise.com

Although a proposed 565-megawatt gas-fired power plant would technically be in Parlier city limits, it would sit less than a mile away from Selma and Indianola Elementary School.

And some residents aren't happy about this.

"Two of the smaller members of our community right here do go to that school," Selma resident Shelly Abajian said, pointing to two young girls in the audience. "There are 500 more of them. Have you considered air quality only a quarter of a mile away?"

Abajian was one of a dozen Parlier and Selma residents who voiced their concerns during a public meeting held by the California Energy Commission on March 6 regarding the proposed power plant.

The Kings River Conservation District would use the plant as part of a program to generate electricity for 11 Valley cities, including Selma, that have agreed to participate. The location for the plant would be on a 32-acre site on the east side of Bethel Avenue between Manning and Dinuba avenues. Although last year the Selma City Council voted to join the program, which is designed to provide savings and predictable electricity rates for residents, they have voiced their opposition to the location of the proposed plant. Councilman Dennis Lujan attended the meeting last Thursday to share his view with the energy commission.

"I am speaking for the 23,000 people that live within one-half mile of the site," Lujan said. "We have a beautiful school within one-quarter mile of this site. We don't like them breathing the air as it is today, but we have to live with it."

Lujan said that the addition of pollutants from the power plant would just make matters worse.

Many other speakers echoed his thoughts.

"We have the worst air quality in this whole area," said Parlier resident Rosa Velasco. "I'm very concerned, and of course I have asthma and my whole family has asthma."

Scott Galati, legal counsel for KRCD, said that the district prepared several studies on the impact that the power plant would have on the air quality for the students at Indianola and residents of the two cities. He said that there will not be negative impacts.

"The plant will be taking more pollution out than putting in," Galati said. "It will have a net air quality benefit."

According to district officials, the plant will emit about 137 tons of nitrogen oxides, 91 tons of particulate matter and 35 tons of volatile organic compounds. The district is planning to buy emission reduction credits from the San Joaquin Valley Air District to decrease the effects of pollution.

The California Energy Commission will be doing its own analysis and evaluation of the proposed plant and its effect on the local area. The commission will also continue to meet with district officials and residents throughout the rest of the year before it decides on whether to approve the plant.

Section: News

Record Number: /sce/raw/articles/2008/03/11/news/doc47d6f3a18a5e1925648515.txt

Copyright, 2008, Selma Enterprise