



Filing Receipt

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Item Number - 37

August 28, 2024

Chairman Thomas J. Gleeson
Commissioner Lori Cobos
Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty
Commissioner Courtney K. Hjaltman
Commissioner Kathleen Jackson

Dear Public Utility Commissioners,

I am writing to object to the proposed natural gas rapid-start/peaker power plant (Imperial Power Plant) at 1 Circle Drive Sugar Land, TX 77498 and am asking that the Public Utility Commission deny financing for the development of the Imperial Power Plant (project control number 56896, NOI Project Control Number 56455-71). I am a resident of Sugar Land in Fort Bend County and live two miles away from the proposed Imperial Power Plant. I oppose the plant because I understand the power plant, or power generation unit, does not determine that the local community in which it is situated will receive power and because of the health impact to the community.

Our community's concern regarding Imperial Power Plant is that it will be operating in a densely populated area. The plant will be within 3 miles of 18 schools, 16 places of worship, over 75,000 residents, and backed up against established and proposed residential zones. Twenty percent of the residents in this three-mile radius are considered most susceptible to harmful emissions—children under 5 and seniors. In developing this plant, the leaders of Sugar Land are placing the health of our families and children in jeopardy.

According to Air Alliance Houston, we already have in Fort Bend County the dirtiest coal plant in Texas in 2023—W.A. Parish. It “produces the second-most sulfur dioxide pollution of any plant in the country”. According to a Rice University study, this coal plant is responsible for 178 premature deaths every year, between its particulate matter pollution or contaminating groundwater wells with unsafe levels of arsenic, mercury, and other hazards.

The May 2024 GAO report, Electricity: Information on Peak Demand Power Plants, states that peaker power plants emit more pollutants—such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide—per unit of electricity generated than non-peaker plants. These pollutants are associated with various negative health effects, including respiratory, cardiovascular and nervous system issues.

Fort Bend County is already within a non-attainment zone, with a classification of severe. Adding another power plant, especially in a densely populated area, will further compromise the health, safety and environment of our community.

Thank you for considering the serious nature of this issue and placing the health concerns of our community first.

Regards,

Kashyap Patel