



Filing Receipt

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August 28, 2024

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

Post Office Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chairman Gleeson and Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose funding for the proposed Imperial Power Plant LLC, a natural gas "peaker" power plant, under Project Control Number 56896 (NOI Project Control Number 56455-71), to be built at 1 Circle Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77498. This plant is planned within two miles of my home, where I live with my wife and our two children who are 4 and 6 years old respectively.

Despite claims that this 148MW plant would operate at only 30-35% capacity, peaker plants are notoriously inefficient and produce significantly more pollution per kilowatt-hour compared to baseload plants. The emissions from these plants, including nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, greenhouse gases, and volatile organic compounds, are linked to serious health issues such as organ damage, cancer, and respiratory illnesses—ailments that are already prevalent in Fort Bend County. Fort Bend County is already in non-attainment for ozone, and adding this plant would only worsen the situation, harming both residents and the environment.

The Fort Bend County Human & Health Services Community Health Assessment in 2022 identified heart disease and cancer as the top two causes of death, both of which are exacerbated by the pollutants emitted by peaker plants.

Additionally, based on the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce's letter to the PUC dated August 7th, it's clear that project feasibility should be determined based on existing regulations. However, during a recent community town hall, it was revealed that no financial analysis or environmental impact study had been conducted, and the feasibility study by Wartsila Development and Financials Services, Inc. was still incomplete. It is concerning that such a project could be considered for significant taxpayer funding without these critical assessments.

The lack of thorough analysis and the strong community opposition should be enough to reconsider this project. Peaker plants are inefficient and environmentally harmful, and there are already viable alternatives to ensure grid stability that do not involve increasing our reliance on fossil fuels.

As Texas diversifies its energy grid, it's crucial that we focus on clean, dispatchable, and cost-effective energy solutions. Instead of funding gas-fueled peaker plants, the Texas Energy Fund

should prioritize transitioning coal plants to cleaner energy, improving transmission infrastructure, and adding energy storage to existing facilities.

In conclusion, I urge the Public Utility Commission to deny funding for the Imperial Power Plant. This funding should instead support projects that enhance grid stability, demonstrate clear feasibility, and have community support.

Sincerely,

Sidney Lu