



## **Filing Receipt**

**Filing Date - 2024-08-28 03:27:27 PM**

**Control Number - 56455**

**Item Number - 157**

**August 28, 2024**

The Honorable Thomas Gleeson, Chair, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Lori Cobos, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Jimmy Glotfelty, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Courtney Hjaltman, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Kathleen Jackson, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Post Office Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711

**Dear Commissioners,**

**Subject:** Notice of Intent (NOI) Project Control Number for the Sugar Land Plant (56455-71) at its proposed address at 1 Circle Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77498

We are writing to you all to voice our objections to the natural gas fired utility plant proposed by Wartsila, in collaboration with the City of Sugar Land, to be built at 1 Circle Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77498, under control number 56455, item number 140. The Project Control Number for TEF In-ERCOT Generation Loan applications is 56896.

Being a resident of Sugar Land for the last 14 years and four months, we are directly impacted being a stakeholder while also being 1.3 miles (3 mins) from this proposed power.

It is unclear to us and other citizens how this proposed plant will be built in compliance with the Clean Air Act as it is sited within a non-attainment zone.

The plant will have substantial public health impacts, given its location within 3 miles of 18 schools, 16 houses of worship, and over 75,000 residents. It will surely impact/add toxins to the current status of the air quality and the water table. We and our families are not willing to assume the risk when there is no added benefit to our life without considering other more feasible and cost effective alternatives that are readily available.

If this plant is being proposed to add resiliency to the grid, we feel that a far better investment than this plant would be to add battery storage and enhance the transmission and distribution parts of the network (evident during Hurricane Beryl) or house this project at the WA Parish coal plant site where transmission lines already exist or another remote location. Adding a plant in a highly populated area is not a wise decision especially next to a conservation park, an existing revenue generating airport and a historical district and we strongly oppose it. Also to note that resiliency of the ageing power infrastructure in the City of Sugar Land (one of the top cities in the US) is a more important and pressing issue at this time as evident by the damage from Hurricane Beryl.

We have grave concerns that local officials are not acting in a transparent and legal way to progress these plans towards the christening of a natural gas plant in our immediate vicinity. The City of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County residents must have a voice in this process. In fact, we are demanding to be heard. We demand more transparency from you, regarding the

rationalization for installing this plant, that will contribute to worsening air quality, impacts on property values, and most importantly the negative impact on our health.

**Note:** Fort Bend County already has the dirtiest coal plant in the state at W.A. Parish that impacts and affects communities in Fort Bend County. W.A. Parish 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 W. A. Parish plant has proven to be unreliable, economically costly, and negatively impacts our health. Adding a gas power plant with similar toxic emissions within 3 miles of 18 schools, 16 places of worship, over 75,000 residents, and backed up against established and proposed residential zones is not acceptable to me, our family and immediate neighbors.

Below is a link to the article that appeared after residents pressed for an Information hearing with the City Mayor and other officials including Wartsila.

Sugar Land residents tell city leaders they don't want a power plant ([houstonchronicle.com](http://houstonchronicle.com)).

Based on the above, TEF should not fund this application with tax payer funds.

We appreciate your time and thanks in advance for considering our requests with urgency.

Regards,

Meryl & Anand Pinto

531 Newington Ln, Sugar Land, Texas 77479