



Filing Receipt

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Item Number - 29

August 28, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Gleeson, Chair, Public Utility Commission

Chairman Thomas J. Gleeson

Commissioner Lori Cobos

Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty

Commissioner Kathleen Jackson

Commissioner Courtney K. Hjaltman

Dear Commissioners,

I am a longtime (almost 30 years) resident of Sugar Land in Fort Bend County. I am writing to object to the natural gas rapid-start/peaker power plant (Imperial Power Plant) to be built at 1 Circle Drive Sugar Land, TX 77498, under project control number 56896, NOI Project Control Number 56455-71. The proposed plant will be within the zone of environmental impact for my home, family and communities I interact with daily.

One of my many concerns is that a natural gas power plant is NOT the least environmentally detrimental power general method. The problems of the Texas grid are NOT about capacity but transmission infrastructure. As someone negatively impacted by Ice Storm Uri, let's FIX THE GRID, not create more problems with a plant that is sought to be constructed without ANY archeological or environmental impact studies.

Furthermore, the Imperial Power Plant 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 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". It is a lie that natural gas is great- by it's very nature toxic gases such as methane, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide are produced which will exacerbate the adverse health impacts to people and all creatures, , including respiratory, cardiovascular and nervous system issues, with the zone of toxicity produced by the proposed plant. See May 2024 GAO report, Electricity: Information on Peak Demand Power Plants, states that peaker power plants emit more pollutants per unit of electricity generated than non-peaker plants.

On May 21, 2024, the Sugar Land City Council voted for the proposed power plant but did not inform residents of their plans to develop a plant in such close proximity to a large residential area with no prior public engagement. This is wrong. 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 degrade the quality of life of ALL Sugar Land residents. And for what? This “emergency power” ASSUMES the plant will turn on when need arises AND transmission issues are fixed to POTENTIALLY help provide capacity during energy intensive events...but Texas already has excess capacity with renewables etc. The focus should be on also shifting to energy storage to increase capacity which does NOT put people over profits.

I am asking that the Public Utility Commission deny financing for the development of the Imperial Power Plant. Thank you for considering the serious nature of this issue and placing the health concerns of our community first.

Sincerely,

Sumita Ghosh, JD, PhD