



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2024-08-22 04:30:41 PM

Control Number - 56896

Item Number - 8

August 22, 2024

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

Dear Public Utility Commissioners,

I am a 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. This proposed plant will be within two miles of my home.

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.

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. Citizens learned about the plant after the fact from local newspaper articles, social media and word of mouth, as there was no previous public engagement.

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.

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,
Sangeetha Gali