

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Antha Holt [anthaholt@me.com]
 Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:15 PM
 To: COM EFSEC
 Cc: Marvin, Bruce (ATG); Gary Holt; Terry Willis
 Subject: Satsop Mitigation Determination of Nonsignificance

March 8, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in response to the EFSEC Mitigation Determination of Nonsignificance. I attended the public meeting in December when it seemed that the members of the council were truly listening to the concerns of our neighborhood and surrounding communities. Reading through the MDNS, it looks as though some of our concerns may have been addressed, however, I am still greatly concerned about noise levels. I have not had time to read through everything, I work full-time as a music/technology teacher as well as the Tech Coordinator for our school district, but reading through the information in the Noise - Potential Impacts I noted the following information: computer modeling states that the noise levels would be less than 50 dBA at nearby residential properties & less than 70 dBA at adjacent industrial properties to the north, south, and west. It also states that GHE would request a noise easement from the PDA waiving the 70 dBA limit. My concern is that our property is to the southwest of the existing power plant. We receive little benefit from the sound/acoustical barrier on the west side of the plant. In one of the many documents that I reviewed, it stated that 70 dBA is about the equivalent of having a vacuum cleaner running 3 feet from you. I completely agree, since that is about the sound level we have experienced in our home when the plant is noisy. There have been times we have had to move to the back bedroom of our two story house in order to reduce the noise impact on our sleep. I also noticed in the WAC that it states that "between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.", the noise limitations for Class A, (residential), receiving property shall be reduced by 10 dBA and if exceeded must follow these guidelines: 5 dBA for total of 15 minutes in one-hour period; 10 dBA for a total of 5 minutes in any one-hour period; or 15 dBA for a total of 1.5 minutes in any one-hour period. While the power plant is not noisy all the time, I can guarantee that these noise levels have been exceeded in the past. I do not have an instrument to test the levels, but I teach band classes and I am pretty "noise-tolerant". I am including a quote from an email I sent Terry Willis, county commissioner, on September 23rd:

> Hi Mrs. Willis,

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> I am writing this email at 3:40 am because I cannot sleep due to the
 > noise from the gas-combustion power plant. As I am sure you're aware,
 > there are times that it either does not run, or the noise level is
 > much lower. Lately, it seems to be running more often with a much
 > higher noise level. I remember when we went to the public meetings,
 > (several years ago), and asked about noise levels. We were told that
 > it would be ambient noise - similar to the buzzing of fluorescent
 > lights. This is more like being upstairs in a two-story house with a
 > vacuum cleaner running downstairs - constantly.

At the times when the power plant is noisy, my husband and I cannot sleep and end up going to work exhausted. In my case, as a teacher and the Technology Coordinator, it greatly impacts my students and my school district. They need me to be at my best.

I am also concerned about the proposed mitigation. The hiring of an acoustical engineer to perform noise monitoring sounds good, however, he or she will be working for GHE. I hate to be cynical, but it seems like monitoring of the plant should be done by an unbiased party. Last year the plant did a sound study and the monitoring equipment was placed at the end of our driveway. When we looked at the results at the public meeting, the plant always had a reason, (not related to them), for any noise exceeding the limits. We found it interesting that they knew our high noise level was due to a lawn mower - especially since we were not mowing the lawn on that day. In fact, I was in Texas and my husband was at work and came home around 5:30 pm.

Because he works full-time, he only mows the lawn on weekends. I am sorry, but I do not trust their sound studies or their sincerity in monitoring noise for the good of the neighborhood and surrounding communities.

I am not opposed to the construction of more power plants at the site if they can find a way to truly reduce the impact on our quality of life in this neighborhood. I am encouraged that the "project design features include absorptive silencers, etc...", but will this also apply to the existing power plants? I would like to see an additional noise/acoustical barrier wall on the south side of the plant. I would also like to have whatever muffling can be done to reduce the noise from the turbines added as part of the mitigation. (Some of this may be in place, I tried to read through as many documents as possible, but did not have time to do as much research as I would have liked.)

I know that the building of the power plants will bring needed construction jobs for the construction period and I truly hope that the council will think globally - not just short term impacts, but long term impacts, on quality of life, environment, and economy. I feel that solutions can be found that fit all our needs, including GHE.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Antha Holt
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