

April 2000

Letter 69

Attention:

Dear Elected Official/Governing Body:

I am writing to protest the construction of the Sumas Energy 2 natural gas fired generation plant in Sumas, Washington.

This plant will emit more than 200 tons of nitrous oxide, 100 tons of ammonia, 200 tons of particulate matter, 90 tons of carbon monoxide per year and 2.16 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. This is no small project and these calculations do not take into consideration the accumulative or residual effects of these emissions.

I believe that the DEIS document prepared for the application with the energy board - EFSAC has many huge gaps and some very erroneous statements as to the human health effects. The area north east of this plant, which is where these emissions will go, is known to have the worst air quality in Canada. As well this plant will draw huge amounts of valuable water from the Sumas/Abbotsford aquifer, which will eventually reduce the levels of the farm wells. As to the possibility of the transmission lines going north into Canada, this is just not something that I as a citizen of Abbotsford want to accept. These lines will have a serious effect on our health and economic climate. This does not even address the contaminants that will be in the effluent coming from the plant.

I do not wish to see this project go ahead and urge you to use your powers and persuasion to put an end to this proposal. Please listen to the citizens that will be most affected by this plant.

Why is this plant not being built closer to where the power is going to be used? (California) Could it be that they don't want the noise and pollution too?

### Hydro considers growing trend of gas-powered plants

Natural-gas-fired power plants are the coming thing in electricity production, says B.C. Hydro.

Though the utility isn't planning to buy any power from the proposed Sumas Energy 2 plant if it goes through, B.C. Hydro does see a use for similar plants.

"Natural gas will be the wave of the future in electrical generation," community relations manager Terry Parsons said.

A recently released electricity plan by Hydro shows the system has enough

resources to keep up with demand until 2007, or, if load is high, 2005. The next major supply addition to B.C. Hydro's system is planned to be a combined cycle gas turbine plant on Vancouver Island in about 2007.

Parsons said two sites are being eyed, one at Port Alberni and one in the north of Vancouver Island.

"In future there would likely be more gas plants," Parsons said, because they operate the most efficiently. "It appears cheaper than hydroelectricity." Gas-fired

plants require significantly less infrastructure than hydroelectric generation. And they have the added bonus of being able to locate closer to where the power's going - instead of having to transport power from an out-of-the-way dam to an urban centre.

Abbotsford Coun. Patricia Ross, however, has some concerns about the reliance on natural gas when there are cleaner power sources.

"There's so many power sources being work on and developed right now," she said, citing wind as an example.

Sincerely, **BARTON D. BIGFORD**  
Abbotsford Resident

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