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Letter 247

April 14, 2000

Dear Allen J. Fiksdal
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

The environmental concerns are to numerous and varied to allow the construction of the Sumas Energy 2 electrical plant to occur. From air pollution to water withdrawal the concerns to environmental quality are not offset by the economic impact to the community. As a resident of Whatcom County I would like to voice my opposition to the Sumas Energy 2 electrical plant being constructed. I am very concerned over all of the different ways the environment can be harmed especially when it is not evident that the electricity is truly needed. The following is a list of these concerns:

1-Air quality-Three tons of toxic material being released into the air is too much and unneeded. Why should we breathe polluted air when the power is not really needed. | 1

2-Water use-Withdrawing almost 1 million gallons of water per day from the Sumas-Abbotsford aquifer will decrease the amount of water available in the aquifer to recharge the Nooksack River. With the Nooksack River Chinook salmon being a threatened endangered species and low water flow in the river a contributing factor to this decline how can the aquifer level be reduced by this amount per day? I realize that the City of Sumas has water available under their existing water right but until the salmon issue is decided I do not think that much water per day should be used. Also, why would the City of Sumas want to allocate the remaining portion of their water to one industry? What if future, more environmental friendly industries need water? | 2
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3-Floodway-Filling in 26 acres of Nooksack River floodway with gravel to 1 foot above the 100 year flood level creates numerous environmental concerns. One, Sumas has already experienced extreme damage from recent floods and raising the flow even minutely will cause more damage to occur in the City of Sumas. Two, I am always concerned about the irreversable damage to land by the expansion of gravel pits. These two issues alone are enough to prevent construction. | 4
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4-Diesel Storage-Storing 2.5 million gallons of diesel above the Sumas-Abbotsford aquifer is extremely dangerous. The people of Whatcom County depend upon the purity of this aquifer and can not risk contamination of this precious resource through a rupture or failure of this storage system. | 6

5-Power line construction-Using the county right-away to place the new power lines puts these transmission lines too close to people, houses and animals. The amperage field created by these lines can possible endanger the health of these stakeholders. Another concern is the aesthetics of the lines and how they will affect the views of people who constructed houses especially for this purpose. Is this a government taking of property rights? When the new power lines cross the river, how will it affect the flight patterns of | 7
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birds that use this river corridor? Definitely these are potential problems that by themselves warrant not constructing the Sumas 2 plant.

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These are very grave concerns for the environment and the people and animals that live in the area. The potential economic improvement for the Sumas area is not greater than the environmental degradation that will occur. Granted that the Nooksack Valley School District and the City of Sumas can use an increase in their tax base, but not at the expense of the environment.

The solution to this problem is to take the proposed 24 million dollar tax break and use this money to develop environmentally friendly businesses for downtown Sumas. Why should Sumas mortgage their future on an industry that will harm the environment? Please do not allow the construction of the Sumas Energy 2 plant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ladd Shumway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Ladd Shumway
7845 Noon Rd.
Lynden, Wa
98264
360-354-5981