

Makarow, Irina (OCD)

From: Lynn Peterson [Lynncpeterson@home.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2001 3:36 PM
To: efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov
Subject: comments res: Sumas Power Plant

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OCT 15 2001

To: Allen Fiksdal
EFSEC, Olympia, WA

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

From : Lynn Peterson
Hugh Lewis
1741 Sapphire Trail
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-676-5150

Re: Comments about possible power plant in Sumas

Dear Mr. Fiksdal,

I am writing you and offering comments before your October 16th hearing on the potential environmental impact of the proposed power plant in Sumas. My husband and I want to express our deep concern about the building of this plant and hope you will vote against it.

From our house high on the hill near Emerald Lake (off Mt. Baker Hwy and Britton Rd in Bellingham), we look north over much of the county and into Canada. Even now, there are many days the air is so filled with pollution and particulate matter that we cannot see the mountains. When we stand on our deck and look out, it is appalling that our air is already this dirty. Yes, we do have days when the sea breezes carry the pollution away but there are also weeks when the air looks yellow and brownish. We can also tell you by our personal health experience that our county's air quality has become poorer. Hugh has developed lung trouble in the last three years and I am already being treated for asthma. We worry about whether or not we may have to leave our home and this area should the power plant become a reality.

Information about the effects of this plant, should it be built, have indicated that tons of particulate matter and increased carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide would occur. As I understand the proposed plans now, the plant proposed to help offset this only by contributing to a pollution control fund! What about the particulate matter in the air and its effects on our county's health?! From the articles in the paper, many more children and adults are being diagnosed with asthma and breathing problems in this area. The building of this plant will cause even more to be affected.

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Secondly, we have been told by many experts that our ground water and surface water is in short supply in this county. I know many groups are discussing the quantity of water and how it can be divided to maintain all of the interests of our county. The fact that the plant will perform surveys and monitor wells in the area for the first year of the plant's operation does nothing to the fact that water quantity is limited! The company states it will perhaps add two new well sites. What additional water table will they find? If water is found to be lacking, will they close the plant once it is built? We all know the answer to that question.

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We hope that you will consider these comments as you are making a decision about this plant. Please don't allow this plant to be built. Our health and the health of many other adults and children will be impacted.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Lynn Peterson and Hugh Lewis