



Julio Barrera  
09/18/07

Hayward Power Plants

To whom it may concern,

My name is Julio Barrera, I'm a 17 year old college student. This letter is regarding to Calpine's project of building power plants in Hayward. First of all, I want to let you know that as many people, I disagree with this project. I've been reading a little bit about this company, I realized that these are power plants that generate energy using natural gas, which I found interesting and somehow I believe that is a good thing, since this is not a company that uses carbon to produce energy, therefore the levels of pollution are lower. I see that Calpine wants to replace the old plants by new ones that would be more efficient, up to this point it seems that Calpine's intentions are good, they want to "help" the environment, however, the things change when we see that Calpine wants the inhabitants of Hayward to stop using their fireplaces, and burning wood, so they can build their plant. Calpine argues that a fireplace contaminates more than a plant using natural gas, and that they are willing to help people to change their old fireplace for new heaters, that obviously will consume the energy that the plant would generate. I believe that by doing this, the plant wouldn't help the environment but destroy it, if you analyze the situation you will see that people do not use their fireplace every single day of the year, not even during wintertime, on the other hand, people who have heaters at home are more willing to use them more often, since the only thing they have to do it's press a button, what does this tell us? Well, if the people replace their fireplaces for heaters, the energy that they'll consume will be grater, therefore the power plant would have to produce more energy, which means they'll have to burn more gas and this will release more pollution than before. The plants would release a heave does of particulate matter, dozens of pounds per hour of airborne pollutant, amounting up to 150 tons per year, in comparison, the worst residential fireplaces can emit up to 60 grams per hour of fine particles, and old wood stoves can emir up to 18 grams per hour. I believe than Calpine is too ambitious, it only wants to manipulate people by telling them that they would even pay for their new system, they also want to buy the city by saying that they would donate 10 million dollars for public library. They should stop washing people's brains, and if they really want to help they should start working on ways that would improve the environment not that would decrease its quality.

Sincerely

Julio Barrera

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julio Barrera", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.