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Comment Received From: Michelle Murphy
Submitted On: 5/8/2014
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letter is my attempt to provide a bit of public comment on the amendment to the El Segundo project, 2013

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Rodriguez, Raquel@Energy

From: Miller, Elena@Energy
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 10:17 AM
To: Rodriguez, Raquel@Energy
Subject: FW: Comments on the El Segundo Power Plant 2013 Amendment Proceeding Docket # 00-AFC-14C
Attachments: photo (1).JPG

Please docket.

From: Murphy/Perkins [mailto:murphyperkins@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 4:04 PM
To: Stora, Christine@Energy; Energy - efilingPOSarchive; Energy - Public Adviser's Office; e-recipient@caiso.com; George Piantka P.E.; kchristensen@elsegundo.org; laurie jester; mnazemi1@aqmd.gov; McKinsey, John; Michelle Murphy; Miller, Elena@Energy
Subject: Comments on the El Segundo Power Plant 2013 Amendment Proceeding Docket # 00-AFC-14C

Dear California Energy Commission,

This very informal letter is my attempt to provide a bit of public comment on the amendment to the El Segundo project, 2013 Amendment Docket Number 00-AFC-14C.

Over a dozen years ago my husband and I and several neighbors and interested folks attended scores of Commission meetings in El Segundo about proposed new power generators. I'm not sure why hearings like these are not being held here this time around. As a taxpayer I should perhaps be glad that resources aren't being wasted on flying folks down from Sacramento for somewhat perfunctory hearings, but it was a way for the public to get some kind of understanding about issues that matter to us. We learned about once-through cooling, pm 10's and we offered (I humbly believe) some useful information about what neighbors most wanted visually and what would work for noise and light abatement.

This time around we have had so far only two hearings attended by a tiny handful of the public (only me at the most recent hearing) and we have learned nothing about the proposed new project except that everything appears to be going swimmingly.

That may well be so, but as I am unable to understand all the complicated engineering and other details that go into building a power plant I am reliant on my government in the form of the Energy Commission to protect my health and preserve my quiet enjoyment of my home that borders on the El Segundo plant. I can only hope that is happening.

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About the issues I can understand the applicant NRG has been less than perfect. Attached to this email is a photo of the property just across the street from my house and across from all the near neighbors to the plant. The approved Conditions of Certification promised lush green trees and shrubs. Instead we are looking at a brown mess, chopped down to only an inch or so of dead grass. John McKinsey has told us that he has urged NRG to replant dead trees and work on landscaping that area but so far, except for a tight row of palm trees planted a few months back, the only part of the entire project which is bordered by homes remains the ugliest and least planted of all the borders of the plant. No one has told us why.

I'd like the Energy Commission to require NRG to keep its promises.

I might find more energy to read and comment on the current proceedings if I felt my comments would have an effect.

I would like NRG to be required to provide sound dampening windows to those residents who will be affected by the certain increase of noise of construction and the noise of nearby plant operation when the newer and closer plants open eventually. I know NRG did provide such windows to one neighbor during the last construction phase. LAX has provided such windows to people who are affected by airport noise.

I would like noise measurements similar to those required last time be required again and I would like noise monitoring of some sort to go on during construction as well because subjective reports are not as useful as scientific data.

NRG has made mention of meeting the Coastal Commission required enhancement of the property by creating some kind of handicap accessible walkway just to the southwest of our house. This does not seem like a good idea. There is already a wheelchair ramp only a few blocks away and it leads to a restaurant and a spot where the city will be building a cement ramp to allow handicapped folks closer access to the ocean. That access is a culmination of years of work by an activist friend, Evelyn Fry who is 95 years old.

Creating handicapped access where NRG proposes it would be duplicative and not very useful. Neither pedestrians nor wheelchairs are allowed on the bike path in front of the plant so the only benefit would be a slightly shortened path to the tiny pocket park in front of us.

Instead I would urge, as I have for a dozen years, that NRG and the Energy Commission and the Coastal Commission work on providing the beach access that I believe may even be necessitated by law. In the winter during storms and at high tide there is no legal pedestrian beach access in front of the plant, because the ocean covers the beach and pedestrians cannot legally use the bike path. To legally travel that distance a pedestrian would have to climb the hill and walk along busy Vista Del Mar road hundreds of feet from the beach. The rock revetment that prevents beach access was put in to protect the plant.

Finally is anyone in government or private industry studying the effects of climate change on the building of this expensive new power source? If the ocean rises as predicted, the money spend on this plant may be wasted.

Please listen to my above thoughts even though they are not filed in a formal manner. I would like to try to help you people publicize the proposed new power generators so we could get more public input. It seems to me thus far we have both failed at that task.

Michelle Murphy
310-545-6751


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