

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	79-AFC-04C
Project Title:	Compliance - Application for Certification of DWR Bottlerock Geothermal Project
TN #:	201274
Document Title:	Gerri Finn's public comments
Description:	Letter read by Gerri Finn during the public comment portion of the 11-18-19 Committee Hearing
Filer:	Paul Kramer
Organization:	Gerri Finn
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/20/2013 12:15:23 PM
Docketed Date:	11/20/2013

Gerri Finn

7855 HIGH VALLEY ROAD COBB CA 95426

November 18, 2013
CEC
re: BRPP petition to amend

Dear Commission

Thank you for allowing the public meeting/hearing to occur in Cobb. I am very interested in the outcome of your decision because it affects myself, my family and my neighborhood. I also want to thank the committee for their diligent work reviewing the proposed amendment and closure costs. From my "lay person" perspective, it appears that the committee did a thorough and comprehensive review of the decommissioning plan. I support the committee's recommendation.

I would like to give you the history of Bottle Rock Power Plant's (BRPP) effect on me and my family as well as the neighborhood and environment, so that you understand my position on the decommissioning plan and the bond requirement.

First of all, I have moved from High Valley because the emissions effected the health of the whole family and in particular, my child. The symptoms we have are headaches, earaches, sinus congestion including nose bleeds. My youngest son has persistent sinus congestion and occasionally, shortness of breath. The odor nuisance is also a significant effect; our house, cars and garage all stink after high levels of H₂S are released from the plant and the steamfield. The levels are almost always high near my house. You can refer to the PAMS2 monitor to see for yourself. It's the monitor that's close to my house and detects the emissions that funnel through the mountain drainage then to the High Valley neighborhood before the odors reach the Glenbrook monitoring station. The BRPP doesn't care enough about the air quality that effects me and my family and ensure that the levels are low.

Tel 707-928-5555

Email gerrifinn@gmail.com

As far as decommissioning and restoration goes, I'd like to continue with the history of the BRPP's practices, or pattern of practice. Prior to BRPP, High Valley Creek, in particular the stretch that goes from the power plant to the Binkley property (it is the headwaters of the creek) was great habitat for aquatic life. It had all the features you would expect in a healthy creek including lots of pools. The pools were deep for a headwaters creek, up to four feet deep with many in the two to three foot range. The effects to the creek became evident after the winter following the plants start up activity which included illegal grading, excavating sump ponds, building illegal pipe pads and dumping sump mud on the meadow. The pools in High Valley Creek were gone. They have filled with sediment and gravel. I don't know how the creek could be restored. I believe that this is permanent degradation of a once healthy environment. When the neighbors reported the other illegal and environmentally harmful practices that BRPP was conducting, agencies required restoration or remediation to those areas. These are the actions and response by BRPP:

- Excavating through the protective clay liner of sump ponds - Required to fill them in - It hasn't been done and was required how many years ago? About 4 years. BRPP argues and delays getting it done rather than doing the right thing and filling them in.
- Illegal pipe pad was built using sump mud to create a huge pad for pipe and parking. This spoils site is immediately adjacent to High Valley Creek. They didn't do the right thing and remove it. It sits there, a muddy spoils dump that has a bit of straw waddle for erosion control. It drains to the creek and the meadow.
- Sump mud dumped on the meadow. Required to remove the spoils and revegetate. This was also next to the creek in a seasonally wet meadow. The tar grass cover that was used to restore the meadow is very different than the native grasses and forbes that were there prior to the disturbance.

BRPP has created extensive pollution to our air, water and soil in the neighborhood. They have negatively impacted wildlife and human life. They resist any type of agency or public request for restoration or restitution as you can see with this bonding requirement amendment.

They haven't proven themselves to be trustworthy or even responsible for their actions by following laws or permit and deed requirements. Without a bond, it is apparent that the decommissioning and restoration will not be done or not done to a reasonable, environmentally responsible standard.

BRPP is unique in the Geysers region. They aren't one of the long standing geothermal companies that have good public relations and at least, attempt to resolve community issues. They are also geographically different. BRPP is within a residential area, a neighborhood. Instead of understanding that issue, they have forced the residents to be part of an industrial area. That makes them unique and it needs to be taken into consideration when restoration and decommissioning are evaluated. It needs to be taken into consideration with evaluating ongoing operations also.

If you're not going to enforce the requirement to have a 5 million dollar bond, then I hope that you at least require the 2.67 million dollar bond that your committee is proposing so that there is some assurance that the negative impacts of the power plant site will be addressed at closure.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Gerri Finn