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Residents Against the Rebuilding and Increased Pollution - Pollution Questions

As a 24 Year resident of Redondo Beach and one of the leaders of the grass roots resident movement, No Power Plant, I personally have talked with hundreds of residents during our 9 month campaign for Measure A, and I estimate well over 80% of the residents were against the rebuilding of the power plant due to the increase in pollution, the aesthetic and economic blight it causes our City, and the fact the plant barely runs. Those who wanted to see a new power plant built were not educated in the fact this plant does not directly power us and only operates at less than 5% capacity. In fact this plant operated at only 2% this year with the large heat waves and with San Onofre out of commission, the need for this plant is extremely questionable. The independent study paid for by City of Redondo Beach further proves this plant is not needed for our energy needs.

Considering the fact in AES's application that states the new power plant will emit 5-15X more particulate matter pollution, I have these following questions:

1) Are those of us living in very close proximity to this new plant (within 1-3 miles), and exposed to its increased emissions which include the larger amounts of particulate matter, more at risk than those people not living close? With this exposure, are we at an increased danger of suffering from the adverse health effects associated with particulate matter, like asthma, headaches, autism, premature births, lung disease, ADD, cancer, etc.?

2) If we are at greater risk of serious health effects and poor health, why would you expose us to this risk, whether we are rich, middle class, or poor, if the proposed power plant is not absolutely necessary for our power needs and is not necessary to be built on the waterfront within yards of a large and high density populated area without enough distance from the resident population for the large toxic plume to dissipate?