

To: Mr. Paul Kramer, Chief Hearing Advisor for the Bottle Rock Power Plant Amendment Committee
Conference held at Bottle Rock Power Plant on Friday, May 31, 2013.

Subject: How the cow really ate the cabbage/the BRP committee task at hand

Dear Mr. Kramer,



I was in attendance at this meeting. I am pro-geothermal, pro-Bottle Rock Power and appreciate the morals, tact, and reputation of their current management team. They not only provide jobs, income and support for the community and the state, but they also provide a viable non-fossil fuel energy source that is believed to be renewable or at least sustainable. While I believe any business should have some form of insurance in the event of catastrophic failure of some type, I do not believe it would be fair or justified to hold Bottle Rock Power singularly to a standard higher than anyone or any other business in the state, especially when the California Energy Commission – by extension the State of California – makes no other similar requirement of any other power generator within its borders, to the best of my knowledge. The CEC, to the best of my knowledge does not even require Calpine, BRP's closest competitor, to comply with this. While there is communication and a business relationship between CEC and Calpine, to not hold them to the same standard would not look good in the eyes of the general public. Is there an abandonment plan for Calpine's Units #9 and 10? They've sat idled, cannibalized and abandoned in a state of non-operational decay for years. If no other power generation project in the state has to provide such a bond as is being currently proposed for BRP, then it would seem that the California Energy Commission would be operating with extreme prejudice toward BRP in a manner to attempt to regulate BRP potentially out of business while still maintaining a relationship with Calpine.

I was also appalled at the negativity and seemingly false or less than truthful statements made to your committee by a handful of anti-energy, possibly misdirected or misinformed individuals.

Regarding Mr. Fletcher's nosebleed statements, I have worked in The Geysers for over 30 years and have been in other geothermal projects around the country as well. My co-workers and I have worked with, around and in concentrations of hydrogen sulfide well above, and for much longer than Mr. Fletcher has ever purported to have experienced and we have never experienced a nosebleed from such a thing. If he moved from his home, it was for some other seemingly histrionic reason. Nosebleeds happen from a multitude of things, but not hydrogen sulfide. The same Mr. Fletcher is purported to have threatened a BRP employee, and swept pine cones, needles and other debris out into the access road to the plant site, then called and complained to the county about BRP's not keeping the road clean.

Regarding Mr. Fidge's comments about a drilling operation that fouled his water well, there is no supporting documentation that such an event ever occurred. If Mr. Fidge is so concerned that the geothermal project is an environmental nightmare, then why would he have allegedly taken a geothermal drilling muffler from the BRP project, excavated and sunk it onto his property, and used it as a cistern for his domestic water consumption? It is highly likely that his water became black and brackish from lack of chlorination or proper domestic water operation as evidenced by the extremely high coliform and other bacterial count BRP's staff discovered when asked to sample his domestic water for him. Coliform and other bacteria and lack of hygiene, not a geothermal drilling operation, is the

reason his water turned brackish. Is he a properly licensed water master? Did he get a permit to bury a drilling muffler? Is there a county approved procedure for burying geothermal debris, let alone drinking from such equipment? Will you, the CEC, require him to post a bond to clean up the geothermal (muffler) equipment on his property placed by his own hand for his own operations?

The Fungs' statements regarding their opinion of the state of the project and what they say that Calpine, BRP's most hostile and aggressive competitor, allegedly says to them: "The BRP's steam is bad quality, it is running out/exhausted and nobody wants it". Who calls or maintains dialog with whom here? It's an interesting question but the statements are less than truthful by my experience. Regarding the steam quality, other operators including Calpine operate parts of The Geysers having steam worse in quality and/or with greater decline rates, with less success at times and not as clean and efficient an operation. Whether someone is giving misleading information to a hostile minority, or information given or attained from Calpine, if at all, the information presented to your commission committee is less than truthful in my opinion. Calpine, BRP's closest and most hostile competitor, has spent millions trying to drill out and produce or injection flood BRP's lease boundaries. It would benefit by BRP's plant closure so that it could fulfill one of its goals which is to become the sole operator at The Geysers. What better way to accomplish this than to mislead and financially assist those in the group who spoke to you who are hostile to BRP?

Regarding Mr. David Coleman, with the above said, consider that one of pipeline routes in the scenario that supplies Calpine's Unit #17 on the hilltop above BRP/Coleman residences would be from the large diameter pipeline that terminates at Calpine's tiny Negu-8 well, from around the corner where he cannot see it at this time. The nice flat meadow going right in front of his house would make for some very fast and easy construction. As he's trespassed many times in the past, maybe he should take a look for himself. Another route to Calpine's Unit #17 is closer to Mr. Fidge, the large diameter pipeline and wells that Calpine spent millions on refurbishing is closest to the Francisco pad, all much like a giant bear hug. So in the big picture, who's fooling or using whom here? By and large, among all The Geysers' other access roads – Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Pine Flat, Socrates, Sawmill, no other population concentration along these roads per capita, gets as much care, attention and assistance than the occupants along the road to BRP. Respect and courtesy were extended to all, in spite of the dumping of a large pile of horse dung in the middle of the road from one of the complainants prior to the Commission Committee's site visit.

In closing, Mr. Kramer, I appreciate the time and effort your group, including Karen Douglas and Janea Scott, have taken to travel all the way out to the back country of Lake County. Please let them know and share this other version of "how the cow ate the cabbage" or what's really going on. Unless they had their poker faces on, they appeared to present some level of belief in the sad stories presented by singularly powerless individuals tortured by an alleged large uncaring, lawless company. On the back country subject, while I believe your committee is highly educated and experienced, perhaps this helps opens their eyes from others who have already told your committee a different tale.

In closing, I respectfully disagree with a decision to require BRP to post bond when no other person or entity is required to do so. I urge you and your committee to please work out a solution that would be fair, profitable and safe for both California and BRP's future.

Lastly consider the next meeting again at BRP. The Little Red School House neither has Wi-Fi or cell reception.

Thank you

Geoguy