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TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

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TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

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ANNE MARIE STRONACH

(978) 640-4300
FAX (978) 640-4302

September 16, 2008

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Attn: Selma Urman, Presiding Officer

RE: Proposed Billerica Energy Center

Dear Officer Urman and Siting Board Members:

It has been brought to our attention that your board will be reviewing the above-noted proposal at a meeting on September 25, 2008. The undersigned officials from the Town of Tewksbury wish to convey our strong opposition to this proposal and ask that you consider the Town of Tewksbury's position in your determination.

As a neighboring community that directly abuts this proposed facility, there are a number of concerns that have tremendous potential to threaten the health, welfare, and safety of our community's residents. Since the proposed facility is not located within our town borders, Tewksbury has had little ability to impact this decision process. Despite this status as a neighboring community, access to the proposed facility will be attained via Tewksbury roads. Furthermore, while the facility will be located on the Tewksbury border within Billerica, the immediate vicinity is a densely populated area, including significant residential property. This correspondence is intended to reiterate previously registered concerns to various parties involved, and to emphasize our concerns directly to your board. Our major concerns revolve around air quality impacts, water impacts, and public safety concerns.

Air Quality Impacts

We believe that due to its geographic location relative to the proposed facility, Tewksbury will potentially experience significant air quality impacts. We feel that upon review of the report (Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc., Air Quality & Health Evaluation, BEC, June 24, 2008, Project 14959) prepared for the Town of Billerica, that more research and data are warranted to verify that the predictions of particulate matter

and ultra-fine particulate matter in the modeling are adequate, given their potential health related impacts. Per the previously cited report, the greatest population-based concentrations are anticipated to occur in Tewksbury, which is in the prevailing downwind direction from the proposed facility. This issue is of paramount concern to Tewksbury. The area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed facility is a densely populated residential area. We therefore request that before the board makes any determination, thorough and acceptable predictions of future air quality be developed to ensure Tewksbury residents and others that the operation of the facility will not have any adverse health consequence.

Water Impacts:

The Concord River and its aquifers provide drinking water to Tewksbury and Chelmsford. Any negative impact to the river by the proposed power plant that affects the drinking water supply would potentially impact thousands of residents. In order to ensure the integrity of this critical water supply, we urge you to require a full assessment of subsurface soil and water contamination across the whole site and an analysis of the hydrology of the site to ensure no contaminants will enter the water supplies, as well as assurances that any dissolved minerals and/or suspended solids in wastewater produced by the plant is properly mitigated before discharge into the Concord River.

Public Safety Impacts:

There will be an increase in traffic on Tewksbury roads with the construction and operation of the proposed plant. This is particularly true should it be necessary to truck in all of the water needed by the plant. We therefore request that you require a full traffic impact study so that the effect on the surrounding residents and businesses can be determined. Further, we request restrictions on peak time road usage be instituted relative to heavy equipment and trucks accessing the facility.

Moreover, there are significant security and emergency management issues that must be addressed to the satisfaction of neighboring communities.

In light of these substantial concerns, we urge the board to deny the proponent's request at this time. In the event the board does move to approve this project, we then strongly urge that appropriate safeguards be mandated to protect our residents, including that:


1. You require written assurances from all parties involved as a condition of operation that the operations at the proposed facility will be limited to no more than thirteen hours per day to minimize air quality impacts.
2. You mandate that any proposed changes to the facility and its operations be subject to a public hearing and permitting process.

3. You mandate that there be increased height on smoke stacks to decrease the near field impacts of particulate matter for the benefit of all residents surrounding the facility, most notably in Tewksbury and Billerica.
4. You require that the Town of Tewksbury be given the opportunity to review any emergency plan for the proposed facility and to have input on its effectiveness to protect the public.
5. You require that the Town of Tewksbury be provided compensation for any training or additional equipment that the Town requires in order that we are best able to protect the citizens of the area and our town.
6. You require that there be 24-hour on-site operator presence and that an employee of the facility's operator be present on site during operation and deliveries at the facility.


While we appreciate that you are faced with decisions of this type repeatedly and that they are not easy to determine, let it be clear that our community has substantial concerns that are based on issues of health, welfare, and safety of its residents that warrant the denial of the proposal. Inevitably, our town will experience and live with the results of your determination and the impacts of this facility, however severe or minimal, for years to come. At this critical juncture, we strongly urge that you refrain from putting the residents of Tewksbury in harms way and deny the application.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Todd R. Johnson
Chairman



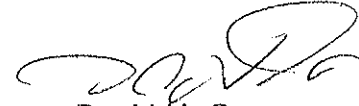
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cc: Senator Susan Tucker
Representative James Miceli
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TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD



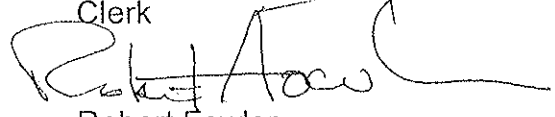
Vincent Spada
Chairman



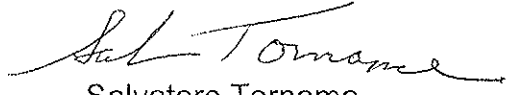
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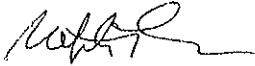


Robert Fowler



Salvatore Torname

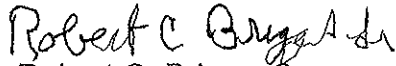
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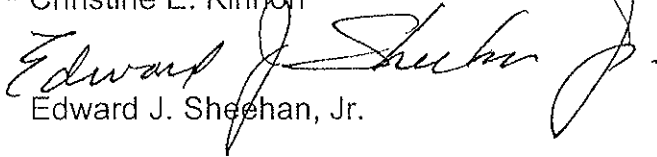
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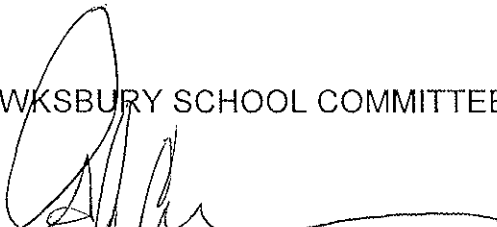


Christine E. Kinnon



Edward J. Sheehan, Jr.

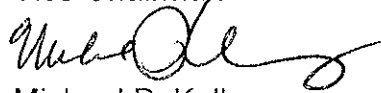
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