

From: Douglas Beach [dbeach7@mac.com]  
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 5:22 PM  
To: Brenda Cabral  
Subject: Title V permit comments

Dear Ms. Cabral:

Please include the following letter with the written comments on the Title V Permit Review of the Hunter's Point power plant. I wasn't sure what format you preferred so I have just pasted plain text within this email. If you would prefer a .doc, I can send it along.

Thank you.

Brenda Cabral  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Ms. Cabral:

We are writing to register our strong opposition to the renewal of the Title V Permit for Pacific Gas & Electric's Hunter's Point Power Plant. Most of the essential arguments for denying this permit were articulated by others at the public hearing May 4, but we would like to highlight what we believe are a few of the more salient points.

In making this decision, the BAAQMD need not and should not consider the opinion of the California ISO. That agency is charged with ensuring reliable flows of electricity in the state. That is not, however, the mission of the BAAQMD, which, according to your website, is to achieve "clean air to protect the public's health and the environment." In light of this mission, the proper decision in this case - to deny the permit - could hardly be more clear. Moreover, even if system reliability were a concern of your agency, the plant failed to operate for the entire summer of 2003, demonstrating not only that its operation is not necessary to provide reliable energy in San Francisco, but also that it is in any case incapable of providing such reliability.

All of the major stakeholders interested in the fate of the Hunter's Point facility, including the City of San Francisco, neighborhood residents, and even PG&E, support the closure of the plant. The BAAQMD has the power to shut it down. Doing so would provide much-needed motivation to the City, PG&E, and CPUC to make the investments in energy conservation, renewable energy, and transmission upgrades that they claim are necessary to maintain reliability without the Hunter's Point plant. In the absence of such pressure, progress in these areas has been disappointing.

The residents of the Bayview/Hunter's Point neighborhood have been patient long enough. How much longer can they be asked for patience, when they are dying of cancer, when their children are being rushed to emergency rooms with asthma attacks? We urge you to act in the spirit of your mission. Deny this permit and close the plant down.

Sincerely,

Douglas Beach, Chair, Energy Committee  
Cathleen Sullivan, Conservation Organizer

Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter