

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE



TOWN BUILDING
HARRISVILLE, R.I.

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Contact: Dyana Koelsch
DyanaK@dk-comm.com
401-415-0370

Burrillville Calls Proposed Invenergy Power Plant “Polluting Monster”

Vows to Continue Fight Despite EFSB Ruling

Despite requests from the Town of Burrillville, the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) today refused to dismiss Invenergy’s application to site a power plant in the Town.

In his statement to the EFSB, Town Attorney Michael R. McElroy stressed the Town does not want the Invenergy power plant saying, “This plant would be a polluting monster that would violate the Town’s comprehensive plan and its zoning ordinances. It would negatively impact the quality of life of all Burrillville residents.”

The EFSB in a Show Cause Hearing suspended, for 90 days, the Invenergy application that is incomplete - specifically lacking a water plan.

Burrillville’s Attorney called for a dismissal arguing, “Suspending the docket instead of dismissing it would give Invenergy what amounts to the gift of an indefinite extension ... subjecting the Town to endless expensive litigation.”

Following extensive fact finding, the Burrillville Town Council last month voted to oppose the power plant, joining a contingent of residents, and reflecting advisory expert opinions on the damaging impact on Burrillville’s environment and way of life.

“We have been fighting this battle now for almost a year at great monetary and emotional expense,” McElroy told the EFSB. While the Town would have much preferred a full dismissal, McElroy said a minimum, the EFSB should put conditions on the suspension. He suggested if Invenergy remained in non-compliance its application should automatically be dismissed. The EFSB did not follow his suggestion.

Burrillville Town Manager, Michael Wood, in a follow up statement, called into question the objectivity and motives of the EFSB Board, “After it became clear that the EFSB was not going to dismiss the docket, the Town Council’s attorneys made very sound and reasonable arguments to the Board, including recommending a course of action that would have required Invenergy to produce meaningful results or suffer the consequences, but our arguments fell on deaf ears.”

“It’s disgusting,” said Town Council President John Pacheco. “We followed the process, and look what that got us. But we’re not giving up.”

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