

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE



TOWN BUILDING
HARRISVILLE, R.I.

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Fighting Invenergy Power Plant Expected to Cost Town of Burrillville In Excess of One Million Dollars

Town is Tapping Tax Agreement Money to Wage the Challenge – While Invenergy's Deep Pockets Fund a New Propaganda Campaign

Burrillville, RI: The Burrillville Town Council is continuing to engage experts and prepare to fully present its opposition to a new Invenergy power plant at a series of hearings before the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB). Already the costs have far exceeded what the Town can afford and what is provided under the EFSB act.

“We knew that Invenergy with its deep pockets was going to unleash a political and public propaganda campaign designed to win EFSB approval,” said Town Council President John Pacheco. “In fact, we are now seeing Invenergy’s latest publicity campaign that funds the launch of *Rhode Islanders for Affordable Energy* – a newly named group to support the plant. We urge people to carefully look at the statements and advertisements from the group. Keep in mind these are Invenergy’s alternative facts and ongoing propaganda just under a different name.”

The Town of Burrillville has set up a dedicated fund to fight the power plant- ironically utilizing Invenergy’s own money. The money is provided under the tax agreement negotiated by the Town with Invenergy.

“We knew we would never be able to battle this power plant without additional funding and we also knew despite our best efforts, the power plant could still be forced on us,” said Pacheco. “The tax agreement was to protect the interests of the Town, and since it provides for upfront money with no strings attached, we are using that money to oppose the plant.”

So far the Town has received \$1.175 million as a result of the agreement - and that money is in a dedicated fund to battle the plant. Keeping in mind Invenergy’s almost limitless resources, Town officials are still concerned it may not have enough to fund what many see as an uphill fight. “We have had to hire experts to assess Invenergy’s questionable claims about pollution, water, need and impact - not just on Burrillville but on the state as a whole- and we have to be prepared to bring our challenge to court if need be,” added Pacheco.

A largely grassroots opposition to the new power plant has been gaining ground:

- Thirty-three of the 39 Rhode Island municipalities have submitted resolutions against the power plant. And three communities outside of Rhode Island have joined us!
- Environmental groups including the Save the Bay, The Audubon Society, Blackstone River Watershed Council, the Environment Council of Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation and others are mounting their own challenges- both in the courts and before the EFSB.
- Keep Rhode Island Beautiful- a vocal and engaged resident's group that started in Burrillville and has gained momentum across the state, is providing countless hours and valuable research about the potential impact of the power plant.

Efforts are underway in the General Assembly to pass legislation that would change the Energy Facility Siting Act. At the request of the Burrillville Town Council, House Bill H6051 and Senate Bill S0769A were introduced to provide a more measured approach to decisions on energy plant locations. The proposed legislation would increase the membership of the EFSB, adding local representation and incorporating meaningful local participation of host communities in the hearing and decision-making process of the board.

At present, the EFSB Final Hearing is scheduled to occur on 18 non-consecutive days between October 4 and Christmas 2017. For more information on updates surrounding the Town of Burrillville and Clear River Energy Center visit the towns website, www.burrillville.org under the "Power Plant" section.