



TOWN BUILDING
HARRISVILLE, R.I.

NEWS RELEASE
March 20, 2019

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

Biodiversity Expert Says Invenergy Power Plant Site is Environmentally One of Most Valuable in Southern New England

More Rare Species on Site Than On Federal Fish and Wildlife Refuges

Warwick, RI: The Energy Facility Siting Board today heard from Biodiversity Expert Anthony Zemba who testified, "I rarely have come across a site that has this many numbers of species of greatest concern on it. This really is a truly amazing site. As a location for a power plant, this is one of the worst uses I could think of."

Zemba further said the proposed power plant would "... obliterate valuable habitats with the added insult of spewing toxic air admissions and pumping more carbon into the atmosphere."

The testimony came as the EFSB continues its final hearings on the Invenergy application to build the massive Clear River Energy Center gas fired power plant in Burrillville. Environmental impact is one of the key issues the EFSB must consider.

Invenergy's own study of the proposed site found 47 species identified in the Rhode Island Action Plan as *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* including some that are endangered or threatened. In his testimony, Zemba noted, the Invenergy study doesn't measure the full impact since it failed to monitor through various seasons or over several years.

Without the full lifecycle study, suites of species that pass through or use the habitat over different seasons are not accounted for. For example, Zemba notes, Invenergy didn't look for several species of conservation need including cottontail rabbits, some butterflies, moths, snakes and bats.

"This is just one more example of Invenergy's shortcuts," said Burrillville Town Manager Michael Wood. "Their inadequate environmental study means there isn't a full picture to draw a conclusion regarding impact. This is a pristine site, and Rhode Island has very few of these sites left throughout the state!"

Already a coalition of environmental organizations has voiced opposition to the power plant, including Save the Bay, the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the Metacomet Land Trust and the Burrillville Conservation Commission who warn that if built, the Invenergy power plant would have wide-ranging and devastating consequences.

According to the members of the coalition, the Invenergy plant will cause forest fragmentation that will have an incremental deadly- effect on the environment. Construction and operation of

the plant would cause permanent damage and pose unacceptable risks to the Narragansett Bay watershed.

The proposed power plant site is on a critical wildlife corridor pinch-point of a 26.6 square mile mature-canopy forest stretches across 3 states and is part of the last contiguous forestland along the Eastern Seaboard.

(please note photos of valuable forest land attached)