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From: Melinda P <mpayne9205@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 12:51 PM
To: Statements
Subject: Docket EMP-92 Sub NTE proposed gas power plant in Reidsville

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

SubO

To the North Carolina Utility Commission:

I am a Rockingham County resident and incredibly concerned about the proposed NTE power plant in the Bethany community. A great many individuals and businesses in our community (that are actually aware of it) are opposed to it, we don't want it here. Its presence and operation will not better our community of any way, form or fashion. It has the potential to be a destructive force for both our budding local economy and diverse environment, neither of which should be considered half heartedly.

Rockingham County has suffered greatly over the past 10 years with the decline in the tobacco industry, mills/plants closing, and housing downturn. Just within the past few years, our local cities and townships have begun to find a new identity and there has been a positive trend in our local economy with new small businesses, tourism, and increased home sales. A great deal of this has been from our beautiful countryside and rivers, as well as it increasingly becoming a bedroom community to Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Martinsville VA, and Danville VA. Many people who live here do not work here but are pivotal for this community to become thriving by bringing money into our county. People will not want to dine, shop, destination, or move here if it is not safe to drink the water from the taps or allow their children to play in waterways due to contamination, both of which are increasingly becoming a reality. Likewise they will not want to be here if there are unsightly power plants emitting harmful gases and noise pollution. Local farmers who were devastated by the downturn of the tobacco market are reclaiming their lives with livestock, niche items, destination venues (such as vineyards, event centers, and historical sites), and ecotourism (river excursions, farm to fork, nature parks, etc). Our Rockingham County community has the potential to continue to move forward in a direction we can be proud of...but not if organizations and operations such as the proposed NTE power plant continue to find homes here. Nobody want to tour a river that has massive and loud pipes sucking vast quantities of water out and spitting back out chlorinated waste. Nobody wants to move to, stay or vacation in areas that feel contaminated regardless of whether it is or not.

I'm concerned for our diverse local wildlife. The Dan River is home to federally endangered species such as the Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*), the James spinnymussel (*Pleurobema collina*), and federal species of interest Green Oater (*Lasmigona subvitidis*), all of which have been recorded in the Dan River near the proposed water and waste pipes. Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil is a federal species of interest and the lovely local Smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*) is also federally endangered and can be found near the banks of the Dan River. I'm not a lawyer, but it would seem they should be legally protected from threats such as these from this power plant. There has not been a study done on what the environmental impacts to these species will be. With a direct change in the waterways flow capacity and constituent makeup you really don't know how these populations will be adversely affected. Not to mention, how needed insects for these species could be adversely affected. These endangered species deserve more protection than they are being given, although it seems the law should at least require species impact studies prior to permitting this type of use for our Dan River. I also think it would be prudent to see a actual list of all the products and by products that will be released into the Dan River (not just chlorine) and our air due to this plant. Since they currently have no operating plants they cannot begin to collect this data much less provide it.

With this being a gas fired plant I have concerns for the air quality for my community at large but in particular my family and friends that reside in the Bethany community. In particular, I'm concerned about the amount of methane gas that would be emitted and what that could do to area livestock, wildlife, tourism, and most importantly those living in close proximity.

The noise that will come from the plant and the water pumps is of concern to many of my family members. Are the quiet, peaceful days in their backyards or us on the river soon to be over? The noise will be a huge inconvenience to the Bethany community, those who enjoy the river, and those who enjoy the park located at the pump site.

Rockingham County DOES NOT NEED anymore power suppliers. NTE says this plant will power 450,000 homes in the area with electricity but the multiple plants that already serve our area don't operate

anywhere near full capacity even during peak seasons. NTE has not proven a need in this area for additional power. We already have multiple solar plants scheduled for development that will assist in providing cleaner, longer lasting energy that will be welcome in our community. No doubt there will be more solar projects in the future that will further assist if or when there is an actual need. It seems the proposed NTE plant has the potential for there to be overbuilding in the area of energy in a area that is not in need and should be looking to the future need for cleaner more reliable energy to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. NTE does not assist in making our community stronger, healthier, or more independent. It will however eventually become a burden on this community with a 30 year contract with the county to take/steal drinking water from our families and farms.

To close, I and MANY others in our community hold fast to rejecting the addition of the NTE power plant in our county for many reasons. Reasons include but are not limited to potential negative impacts to our economy, potential negative impacts to our environment with its many federally endangered species, noise impacts, air quality reduction, and lack of need of yet another plant. Please consider our small community and those of us who will be impacted now and in the future by your decisions regarding this. Please prevent it. Help us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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