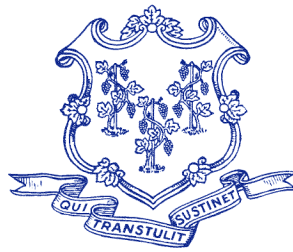


SENATOR MAE FLEXER

Twenty-ninth District

Legislative Office Building
Room 1800
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
860-240-8634

www.SenatorFlexer.ct.gov



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Aging Committee
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Vice Chair
Higher Education & Employment
Advancement Committee

Member
Appropriations Committee
Judiciary Committee

Testimony of Senator Mae Flexer
Connecticut Siting Council Public Comment Hearing Session
Killingly High School
October 20th, 2016

To the Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and to speak about this proposed power plant and the many important issues surrounding it. As an elected representative of the people of the Town of Killingly, and a thirty-year town resident, I have a number of grave concerns about the proposed Killingly Energy Center (KEC).

In my view, perhaps the most important factor to consider in reviewing the application to construct the proposed new plant is the existence of a similar facility already located in the immediate vicinity.

To be specific, I would draw your attention to the existing Lake Road Generating Plant in Killingly, in operation here since 2002. This existing plant, located less than a mile from the proposed site of the KEC project, represents a present and ongoing commitment by the local community to support the regional electric grid, and the energy needs of homes and businesses in Connecticut and across our neighboring states.

The Lake Road Generating Plant has a nominal capacity of 792 megawatts, making it one of the largest natural gas generation facilities in all of Connecticut, and making Killingly the third largest Connecticut generation site overall.

The addition of a second power plant in Killingly, the proposed 550 megawatt facility, would make our small town by far the largest natural gas power generation site in all of Connecticut. In fact, according to data compiled by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Killingly would then become the second largest power generation site in all of Connecticut—second only to the Millstone nuclear power facilities in Waterford.

This would be an enormous burden to place upon the people of Killingly, which ranks as only the 65th most populous of Connecticut's 169 towns. To require so much of the state's electricity to be generated here, and along with it to concentrate such a large fraction of the state's pollutants and emissions from power generation in this town, is grossly unfair.

One small community should not have to bear such a disproportionately large share of the negative externalities associated with meeting the state and region's electricity needs. As I have previously noted, Killingly already bears more than its fair share of this burden through the presence of the existing natural gas generation facility within its borders.

There is also an important question of capacity. The design of the proposed Killingly Energy Center would require large amounts of locally sourced water to operate, a resource that is not unlimited and which is already utilized for the operation of the existing power plant, by other production facilities and businesses in the area, and of course for residential consumption in area homes. The dedication of such large quantities of local water to the proposed KEC facility would constrain the use of those resources for other purposes, both in the present and that might be contemplated for the future.

Simply put, the people of Killingly already make an enormous and highly disproportionate contribution to the power generation needs of Connecticut and our neighboring states, and we are happy to do so! Yet this community's willingness to support its existing facility should not be exploited or taken advantage of to force yet another large-scale facility on this town, its people and its environment.

If the Siting Council does decide to locate this facility in Killingly, I strongly urge you to only approve such a project if there is a guarantee of a Project Labor Agreement. This agreement will ensure that the facility would be built by the most highly trained workers and will provide these workers with a high quality, living wage. I am very concerned that NTE is promising many of our residents a PLA when in fact only an MOU has been signed. The Siting Council should require that a Project Labor Agreement is in place and the Agreement be transferrable to any future owners of this property should the current proponents of this project sell it to another entity.

I ask you to bear all of these considerations in mind, and accordingly to reject this ill-considered application for yet another large-scale fossil fuel generation plant in this small town.

Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to speak before you today.