

May 28, 2021

From Joe Provey

To Melanie Bachman, Walter Bonola, Dan Donovan, Bruce McDermott, CT
Siting Council

Dear All,

Here are my responses to interrogatories 7 and 8

7. Referring to your intervention request form dated March 2, 2021, describe how the project would lead to blight.

Fence-enclosed areas, such as the one proposed by Nupower, act as a trap for trash, which would not be easily cleaned up without access. Our community regularly runs litter cleanup campaigns along Iranistan Avenue. This facility will not be accessible to us. An unmanned facility, such as the proposed tower, will also be a magnet for dumping and graffiti ... unfortunately regular occurrences along South Ave. We are concerned about whether the graffiti will be over-painted, as done on nearby buildings (such as the Medelco, Inc. building across the street) and on interstate walls and ramps. We are also concerned about whether trash will be removed on a regular basis.

We also feel the planned facility unattractive due to its scale. There are no other structures close to its proposed height in the area, except for the I-95 overpass. The plan's exposed, open design and the dozens of pieces of associated equipment (transformers, vents, fans, etc.) also create a chaotic looking streetscape. It should be noted that exterior surfaces are to be left unfinished, which will be subject to rust and corrosion as well as accumulation of soot and dirt. Again, will this facility receive a regular cleaning? We doubt it.

When the planned facility would cease operation in 20 years, the steel superstructure and 14-ft. footings would remain in place according to the Petition. Like the nearby decommissioned coal plant, it will become a hot potato as to who will have to demolish it. Nupower? The city or state? The property owner who has a record of doing little to maintain or improve his for-lease properties?

8. Referring to your intervention request form dated March 2, 2021, given that the project location is within an Industrial Zone, how would the proposed project lead to the encroachment of industry within the area?

The project is located in a Mixed Use Light Industrial Zone. We believe this is primarily due to it being situated between I-95 and the railroad tracks. The areas around it are residential. Nor is this proposal part of the city's master plan. In fact, the property is on "release" land released by the state to the City of Bridgeport after the completion of I-95 in the 1950s. It has been vacant for many decades. No one in the past envisioned a power plant being built on this sliver of land given its proximity to residences and vulnerable transportation infrastructure.

Bridgeport's vision for a connected waterfront pathway currently runs past 600 Iranistan. The plant would not be a welcome sight to pedestrians or cyclists.

<https://web.tplgis.org/Storymaps/newengland/bridgeportwaterfront/cascade/index.html>

The proposed fuel cell plant would be readily visible to neighboring residential areas and businesses to the North and South. We believe its presence would further define the South End as a host community to industrial development. With so much vacant and unused land in this vicinity ripe for development, we would like to see the property used in a way that would encourage stores, restaurants, housing, businesses, not discourage them.