

July 21, 2021

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Ms. Bachman,

We are very pleased that Attorney Thomas Melone has been granted intervenor status with regard to petition 1406A and thank the CSC members for approving his application over the objection of NuPower's lawyer, Bruce McDermott. We fully support Atty Melone's efforts going forward and will continue to do what we can to oppose this climate destructive project.

We were disappointed, however, that the council has denied our request for a public hearing. Atty McDermott says we would simply have asked the same questions (and that he would once again do his best to not answer them). Perhaps, but our questions need to be asked in a broader forum. As presiding member John Morissette noted, there still are still plenty of questions and confusion about this never before attempted power plant design.

An important question a public hearing would have answered is just how many residents in the South End would see this facility from their homes, historic districts, and parks. A balloon, raised to the height of the proposed facility, would have gone a long way in answering that question. Our contention is that the number would be many hundreds ... and perhaps thousands. After all, you cannot hide a 70-foot tall, 200-foot wide tower behind a 25-foot railroad embankment or behind a thruway support column. It would also have been informative to have an on-site visit by the CSC in order to better understand how the site serves as a gateway to the South End's cultural resources.

The rationale for voting against our request for a hearing, voiced by one CSC member seemed to be that the community has arrived late in the game. This is true but somewhat unfair. We were unaware of the project until February of this year (only two months after the CSC's initial denial of the project). The pandemic had something to do with our late start. So, too, was our lack of resources for a lawyer. We had assumed a public hearing would be part of the process, until you informed me in June I would need to request one.

Until our efforts to raise awareness, there was nothing in the newspaper about the siting of this project. Nor were city leaders proactive about letting citizens know what was planned. (In fact, city leaders and planners continue to ignore our requests to meet about the project.) Our South End NRZ saw limited attendance during the pandemic as well, so it did nothing to inform the community about the proposed fuel cell tower. The bottom line is that very few residents knew anything about this project until we began our work. Most people still don't know much about it, despite our efforts. A public hearing would have helped to redress this.

Sincerely,

Joe Provey

Cc: Thomas Melone, Bruce McDermott, Walter Bonola, Daniel Donovan, Dan Roach,
Jorge Cruz, Denese Taylor-Moye, Dennis Buckley