

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 60

Approved February 10, 2017

WHEREAS, On October 29, 2015 Invenergy Thermal Development LLC filed an application to Construct the Clear River Energy Center Power Plant (CREC) in Burrillville, RI with the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB); and

WHEREAS, In the months since the filing of that application, the Town of Burrillville has conducted extensive study of the application with and through credentialed professionals, including studies of noise, water, traffic and air quality, among others; and

WHEREAS, After considering expert testimony and conducting thorough public hearing the Burrillville Planning Board and Zoning Board of Review have advised the EFSB that Burrillville, RI is not a suitable site for the Clear River Energy Center; and

WHEREAS, The Burrillville Building Inspector and Burrillville Tax Assessor, have also submitted advisory opinions to the EFSB expressing the impact the proposed Clear River Energy Center would have on the Town of Burrillville; and

WHEREAS, Sixteen cities and towns in Rhode Island have passed resolutions opposing the siting of an Invenergy power plant in the Town of Burrillville; and

WHEREAS, According to the Blackstone River Watershed Council, “emissions from the power plant, in particular methane and carbon dioxide, would affect a 30-mile area in the northwest corner of Rhode Island”; and

WHEREAS, Particulate matter would “diminish air quality, local rivers and watersheds would be stressed, additional deliveries of chemicals by large commercial vehicles would put residents at risk, noise pollution would increase and the biodiversity impacts and loss of wildlife habitats within the shared watershed would harm the regional environment,” according to Burrillville Conservation Chairman, Kevin Cleary; and

WHEREAS, The CREC power plant in Burrillville would prevent Rhode Island from meeting the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions set by the 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act; and

WHEREAS, Invenergy’s efforts to obtain the water needed for the power plant met resistance and opposition for many months, with the Pascoag Utility District, the Harrisville Fire District, and the City of Woonsocket rejecting proposals to provide water for the power plant; and

WHEREAS, On January 10th, the Town of Johnston approved a 20-year deal selling Invenergy water for the CREC power plant; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB) is the wholesale supplier of water to the Town of Johnston which will be resold to Invenergy; and

WHEREAS, The agreement between the Town of Johnston and Invenergy obligates resources owned by the people of Providence without them having a choice or say in the matter; and

WHEREAS, During the past year, many citizens of the Rhode Island, as well as our neighboring communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut, have expressed strong opposition to the siting of the Clear River Energy Center for reasons including the negative impacts on property, environment, traffic, public health, public safety, and water; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council joins with the citizens and officials of the Town of Burrillville as well as residents throughout the State of Rhode expressing concerns and objections to the siting of the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby oppose the siting of the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, as the democratically elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council does not support and hereby expresses serious concern over the use of water from the Providence Water Supply Board for the Clear River Energy Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that

1. The City Solicitor provide the City Council with information and clarification regarding the City's and the Providence Water Supply Board's ability to prevent the use of Providence water at the CREC power plant and legality of the resale and markup of Providence water by Providence Water Supply Board wholesale customers;
2. The Chairman and the General Manager of the Providence Water Supply Board assist the Solicitor with the above request, and provide the City Council with information regarding the impact of said use on ratepayers, as well as PWSB finances and operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, this resolution be submitted to the Rhode Island Energy Facility Siting Board for consideration during their hearings on Invenenergy Thermal Development LLC's application to construct the Clear River Energy Center power plant in Burrillville, RI.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 02 2017

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor

Date:

2/10/17