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From: MATHIAS THIEL [mailto:mvthiel@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 6:05 PM
To: Weyman Lee
Cc: kansgir116@aol.com
Subject: Air Quality Permit for Russell City Energy Center comment

Weyman Lee, P. E. 1/22/09
, Senior Air Quality Engineer
B. A. A. Q. M. D.

Comment on Proposed Air Quality Permit for the Russell City Energy Center in Hayward, CA.

Dear Sir:

The amended PSD permit for the above project was generated under the policies of the previous administration and therefore inconsistent with current administration policies. As President Elect Obama has stated that his administration will function on the basis of scientific consensus, and not under the unregulated approach of the Bush administration.

It is unfortunate that in April, 2008, president Bush called for a "voluntary target" of "halting the growth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2025." But a report released 24 July 2008, by the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said that such voluntary pollution-reduction programs have "limited potential" to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG); at most 19 percent. EPA should therefore consider additional policy options.

I must therefore warn you that that the list of pollutants in the proposed Air Quality permit is incomplete. The current administration has a strong focus on Global Warming as presented by the Intergovernmental Commission on Climate Change (IPCC) and the current policies of the new administration do include carbon dioxide as a pollutant. The adequacy of the PSD Permit may therefore be challenged before the first shovel is put into the ground.

The above contention is based on reported news items that can be obtained among others from : "The Progress Report" progress@mx3.americanprogressaction.org, of 19 Nov 2007 11:01:32, 25 Jul 2008 12:29:22 and December 11, 2008 9:09 AM.

The following quotations illustrate the urgency the current administration places on the criteria to be followed if the worst predictions for the future are to be mitigated.

In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that (quoting the N.Y. Times of Nov 18 2007, http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/18/science/earth/18climatenew.html?_r=1&hp=&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

1. By 2100, global average surface temperatures could rise by between 1.1 and 6.4 degrees Celsius,
2. and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could lead to an eventual rise in sea levels of up to 1.40 meters. (quoting the New York times of Nov 18

IPCC chairman Dr. Rajendra Pachauri.

declared: "What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment,"

Recently, the IPCC reported that the last three decades have seen "a spring/summer warming of 0.87 degrees Celsius

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The IPCC concluded that "reductions in greenhouse gases had to start immediately to avert a global climate disaster,"

Obama has shown that he intends to fill the void created by Bush and will allow science to dictate policy. Today, reports indicate that Obama will select Dr. Steven Chu as Secretary of Energy, Carol Browner as head of the new National Energy Council, and Lisa Jackson as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator

Browner would coordinate administration policy across departments and advocate for policies on Capitol Hill. Browner, a former aide to Al Gore, was the longest-serving administrator of the EPA, where she successfully beat back conservative efforts to gut safeguards from pollution. She is currently on the Board of Directors of CAP, Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection,

As the government's chief regulator of air quality, the EPA plays a pivotal role in formulating global warming policy.

The amended PSD needs, therefore, to be reconsidered.

Sincerely

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