

Russell City Energy Center public comment.txt

From: Rachel Henderson  
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 1:00 PM  
To: Weyman Lee  
Subject: Russell City Energy Center public comment

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am a resident of the Eden Gardens neighborhood in Hayward, near where the Russell City Energy Center is proposed to be sited. It is my understanding that the impact of repeated startups on air quality and public health are not being taken into account in the proposed permit, even though these startups could cause a significant increase in the amount of pollutants and toxins released into the air. It is also my understanding that Calpine has reserved the right to startup and shut down the RCEC as frequently as they like.

As a scientist, resident, and mother, I am very concerned and dismayed that the potentially significant increase in pollutants emitted by the plant due to repeated startups (when the emission control systems are off) are not being analyzed by the BAAQMD in this permitting process. It means that any analysis of the safety and environmental impact of this plant is based on flawed data that is biased towards the emission of lower levels of pollutants, which does not accurately reflect the true impact of this plant. In fact, I believe California law requires that the maximum potential toxic air contaminants be analyzed, which has clearly not been done if the startups are not taken into account.

I urge you to thoroughly, accurately, and objectively analyze this issue before issuing the air permit. It is your legal and moral obligation to make sure new projects are safe. The way the analysis has been done up to this point is not accurate and therefore no conclusions about air quality impact and safety can be drawn. Please also enter this letter into the public comments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Henderson, Ph.D.