



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PORT JEFFERSON

Margot Garant
Mayor

Robert J. Juliano
Administrator/Clerk

February 25, 2014

Supervisor Edward Romaine
Town of Brookhaven
One Independence Hill
Farmingville, New York 11738

Dear Supervisor Romaine & Ladies and Gentlemen of the Town Board:

I write this letter on behalf of the more than seven thousand residents of Port Jefferson Village. As you may know, since I took office in 2009, repowering the Port Jefferson Power Station and stabilizing the local tax base in a fair and equitable manner have been my highest priorities. We have worked diligently with all the different stakeholders, meeting with Village, Town, County and State officials, representatives of LIPA and National Grid, citizens groups, representatives of environmental groups and labor unions, seeking to understand and address their concerns. We presented our concerns to the State Comptroller's office, the Public Service Commission, and the Governor's office and initiated the filing of the Law suit against National Grid before the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee. These efforts were successful in preventing our plant from being taken off line under the old power supply agreement, and in promoting the idea that repowering the legacy plants can be an economically feasible, and environmentally responsible part of building a new energy supply for all of Long island.

The Village also spent significant resources hiring an independent consulting firm, with strong expertise in the analysis of electrical energy markets, London Economics, to analyze, evaluate and model the supply and demand forecasts that the LIPA staff had used when issuing their RFP for 2000 megawatts of new generation in 2009. The findings of this report confirmed what we had suspected: that repowering Port Jefferson made economic sense. It also confirmed that repowering Port Jefferson made economic sense even with a new CAITHNESS II plant coming in at approximately **400 megawatts**.

When this report was issued, in early 2013, we thought we had finally identified a possible energy future for Long Island that made sense - and that the legacy plants now on the brink of becoming brown fields could become viable again if the host communities were prepared to realistically adjust assessments on the repowered plants over time, through a negotiated glide path to actual value. You can imagine our dismay when the CAITHNESS II proposal was increased in size to 760 megawatts, thus completely absorbing the output of a repowered Port Jefferson plant, rendering it questionable once again that our power plant will ever be rebuilt.

The CAITHNESS II proposal, as modified, is now at 760 megawatts and the Brookhaven Town Board is being asked to evaluate its impact under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. You are being asked to do this in a vacuum, with blinders on, without being given access to or the opportunity to evaluate the entire picture. You cannot assess the environmental impact of building a new power facility in Yaphank without considering its impact on Port Jefferson. As you were told during your public hearing at this moment no plan exists for the future of the Port Jefferson plant and no commitments have been made to repower it. It is our position that at 760 megawatts CAITHNESS II will lead to the permanent closing of the Port Jefferson plant causing the site to become a blighted, unusable brownfield in the middle of a village that has been called by many the jewel of Brookhaven Town.

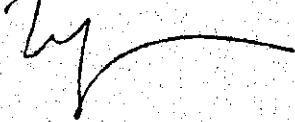
You cannot assess this proposal piecemeal. It has far reaching impacts outside the four corners of the plot of land on which it is to be built. To ask the Board to make a finding based on assumptions, without seeing all the reports, facts and the overall plan for new generation on Long Island in its totality, is to ask you to ignore in your decision, the provisions of SEQRA which require you to weigh the other reasonable alternatives within the Town.

Importantly, SEQRA was instituted to help protect the environment from over development, requiring a complete and careful analysis of the environmental impacts. In this application, several environmental impacts remain unknown. Not knowing where the new or expanded necessary gas supply will come from is paramount to this analysis when documented options show a possible new gas supply line running thru the protected Carmen's River. This incomplete, yet critical aspect of the overall project and SEQRA application should be enough to have the Board either declare a positive declaration which would require further findings, or reject the application altogether.

The heart and true underlying intent of the SEQRA review is the careful balance and consideration of all of the impacts of the new development, ensuring that the environmental impacts are in balance with the social and economic impacts. Under this premise, I cannot understand how the Town Board can move forward in this SEQRA review process, when a decision to move forward with CAITHNESS II at 760 megawatts without a commitment to also repower Port Jefferson would create the possible blight to an pre-existing plant, devastate a local community by eliminating more than half of its tax base, while allowing the devastation of over 80 plus acres of natural, vegetated, green field and possible future devastation to what is supposed to be a protected natural watershed, the Carmen's River.

I urge and implore this Board to reconsider this application, as presented at 400 megawatts, as its approval may have irreversible consequences that could ruin lives, communities and precious natural resources that we should all be duty bound to protect and preserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margot', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Margot Garant
Mayor