



STEVEN ENGLEBRIGHT
4th Assembly District
Suffolk County

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January 28, 2014

The Honorable Supervisor Romaine
Members of the Brookhaven Town Board
Brookhaven Town Hall
One Independence Hill
Farmingdale, NY 11738

Supervisor Romaine and Members of the Town Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Caithness II-related actions before you.

I supported the first Caithness plant. Before that original project was approved and prior to giving my support, I was assured that the Port Jefferson power plant, which is in the 4th Assembly district, would be repowered before there would be any expansion of the Caithness facility.

Caithness II would likely further shrink the possibility of new jobs at, and adaptive reuse of, the existing Port Jefferson power plant site. Within this context the Caithness II proposal now before you represents a broken promise that, if allowed to go forward, will more than likely result in Port Jefferson not ever being repowered. This, in turn, would result in a tremendous negative impact to the economy and quality of life to Port Jefferson, which is the Northern gateway to Brookhaven Town.

Port Jefferson's coastal resources, authentic downtown, and ferry to Bridgeport and New England have helped to shape the Village as an economic and cultural center in the Town of Brookhaven. This economic and cultural reach extends considerably beyond Port Jefferson's borders. Port Jefferson's power plant brings pilot payments to the Village, Town, school district, fire district and library district which, if ended, would cause severe economic disruption in Port Jefferson and ultimately all of our town. Permanently displacing the vitality of Port Jefferson would, inevitably, reverberate into the neighboring hamlets of the Town of Brookhaven with catastrophic economic consequences.

It should be noted that Port Jefferson is a willing host community with infrastructure in place. In contrast Caithness II will apparently need considerable and expensive new gas pipeline construction. It is my understanding that one of the alternatives (as seen on Figure 19-1 of the Caithness Long Island Energy Center II DEIS) cuts directly through the environmentally sensitive headwaters of the Carman's River. Should we be making decisions on the construction of an enormous new electric power generating plant without knowing the full economic and environmental costs of pipeline construction? The obvious answer seems to be that this would be both premature and unwise.

Pipeline costs, which are presently unknown, would be incorporated in the 20-year power purchase agreement with LIPA and ultimately passed along to ratepayers. LIPA already estimates that Caithness II will cost Long Island ratepayers 2.5 percent to 3 percent in the 2018 to 2019 time frame. If electric energy usage history on Long Island is any indication we can anticipate that these estimates are low.

Sadly, any cost increases will leave little possibility of repowering and development of clean renewable energy.

A study commissioned by the Village of Port Jefferson by the Boston-based firm London Economics released November, 2013, notes that “if 706mw is selected for the RFP, then there would be no ‘capacity market need’ for Port Jefferson repowering well beyond 2022.” Stranding Port Jefferson’s legacy power plant site rather than providing it with adaptive reuse in order to level and further industrialize the Brookhaven Pine Barrens is unacceptable. Equally concerning is the possibility that Caithness II would preclude any long-term balanced approach involving renewables within the energy supply of Long Island. Peter Gollon, the Sierra Club’s Long Island Chairman, has said it well: “This board should really be deciding not which new fossil fuel plant is needed, but whether any fossil fuel plant is necessary at all in light of flat electrical demand here, and the need for a rapid transition to renewable energy sources.”

For all of these reasons I urge this Brookhaven Town Board to reject the proposals before you and instead protect the people of Brookhaven Town by preserving our environment, recycling and giving adaptive reuse and jobs to our most important legacy site within the town (in Port Jefferson), and enable alternative projects involving renewable sources of energy to become the new expectation that private energy market investors should look toward within any of the greenfields of our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Englebright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Englebright