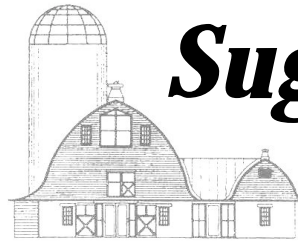


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Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

"Fighting to protect our rural legacy"

Double Trouble: SCA challenges power plant application

We ask you why are the citizens of Maryland being asked to subsidize an International corporation with headquarters outside of Maryland?

We ask you why are the regulations that govern Mirant, which were written for a public utility, applicable in this deregulated world? The current permitting procedure does not include an assessment of need, and the present access generating capacity in the state of MD would indicate that no need exists, especially for up to four new plants.

We ask you why should the communities surrounding the power plant be expected to sacrifice our clean air and water for a private company that is based out of Atlanta, and will ship the power out of state to the highest bidder?

We ask you why should the communities surrounding the Dickerson power plant tolerate the traffic & associated noise from 600 construction employees, and hundreds of trucks barreling down our roads?

If you would like to join us in this challenge...

...We ask you to do two things!

Make a contribution to help us with our legal bills, and contact John Sherwell at the Maryland Public Service Commission about Case #8888 and e-mail JSHERWELL@DNR.STATE.MD.US.

An application has been filed by the Atlanta-based Mirant power company to double its power generating capacity at the Dickerson facility.

The application, filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission, outlines the construction of two natural gas-fired combustion turbines. The expansion would increase the station's electricity generating capacity by 740 megawatts to 1577 megawatts.

This additional power is not for Marylanders, this power goes on the open market to the highest bidder.

So you might ask what's the nature of our problem with Mirant's expansion of the Dickerson facility?

What about water consumption?

The cooling towers included in the Mirant design will consume approximately 8 million gallons per day of water, and discharge approximately 1.5 million gallons per day with concentrated chemicals. This water consumption is equivalent to 5 times the amount of water the city of Frederick uses daily.

What about air pollution?

The new facility would substantially increase ozone and acid rain causing pollutants into the air over Montgomery County. Given our regional challenges in curbing air pollution generated by traffic congestion, and the recent news articles warning the metropolitan area of the danger of 'severe non-attainment status' under the Clean Air Act, why would we welcome this additional load of air pollution?

Our worries aren't limited to Mirant. The Maryland Public Service Commission has 2 permit applications under review and 2 more are expected. They have never had 4 power plant applications to consider, in close proximity, consuming possibly up to 32 million gallons per day from the Potomac River.

We are ready to take this Atlanta based company to task. Why should we be ex-

pected to give away a limited resource-water, spend our tax dollars curbing air pollution, and absorb the

traffic and increased industrial complex at Dickerson?

We are asking our Maryland politicians to lead the way in protection of our air and water resources. Due to the recent

ruling in favor of Virginia, by the Special Master appointed in the Virginia/Maryland water dispute, Maryland legislators have an even greater responsibility for monitoring Potomac water usage.

It now appears that protection of this important resource falls completely to Maryland, given Virginia's plans for a new Potomac River intake pipe. If Virginia approaches this limited water resource as they have their land resources, it falls to Maryland to protect and defend our water resources from development.

"The Sugarloaf community is being asked to absorb the pollution and intrusion of yet another power plant built by a private company that will profit by sending the power out of state."

- Jim Brown, SCA President



Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

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**Friends of
Frank Wilson, our longtime treasurer,
invite you to sign up or donate to the
ALS WALK
AROUND THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL
Sunday, Oct. 21, 9:00 a.m.
For information call Jean Ferber
at 301-587-5048 or send a check directly to
The ALS Association, 615 So Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SUGARLOAFCITIZENS.ORG**

Techway/ Bridge Proposal Lives On

Last May, the Federal Highway Administration, at the request of Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, dropped the study for a new river crossing and so-called "techway".

Many breathed a sigh of relief. But the stark reality is that the techway and outer bridge crossing are far from dead. These projects are still being aggressively marketed in different venues by well-funded special interests such as the Board of Trade, AAA, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, *The Washington Post*, the Dulles air freight industry, and of

course, land speculators on both sides of the river.

Right now, Montgomery County's Transportation Policy Task Force, largely made up of road supporters such as the lobbyist for the Board of Trade and AAA, is studying a "low techway" scenario which would create a techway by widening Rte 118, Spring Meadows Drive, and part of Seneca Road to 4 lanes, before crossing the river north of Blockhouse Point just below Bretton Woods.

This crossing would connect to the Fairfax County Parkway in Virginia. The proposal also calls for widening River Rd. to 4 lanes from the Beltway to Seneca, widening Piney Meeting House Rd. to 4 lanes and Darnestown Rd as well, up to Berryville.

In addition, the General Assembly in Maryland is studying the feasibility of creating a Regional Transportation Authority which could have power of taxation and eminent domain. In our view, this could be the biggest threat in paving the way for a bridge and outer beltway.

What can you do?

Solutions Not Sprawl is a grassroots alliance of over 75 groups throughout the region including, Sugarloaf Citizens Association which has come together to fight the bridge/techway proposal and promote smarter alternatives to helping ease traffic congestion.

Please visit our web site <www.solutionsnotsprawl.org> to learn how you can help make a tax deductible donation to aid this effort. You can also sign up to be on our email alert list.

Help protect Montgomery's Agricultural Reserve and existing communities from the grave impacts such a project would have.