

I speak not only for myself, but for many of my friends and neighbors, and for many people who live farther West, much closer to the proposed facility, when I express concern about the impact that this will have on our air quality and our health, and in some cases also our property values. The explanations provided by Seneca and LRAPA in reference to this site have not succeeded in convincing us that building this thing would be the right thing to do. I agree that we need to start investing in alternative energy sources, but to a lot of us, especially the families in Trainsong, Bethel, and Santa Clara that I've spoken with personally, this is still an incinerator, and whether you're burning coal, or woodchips, or slash, there will be emissions to deal with, many of which will be harmful, and some of which can actually be lethal in the case of long term exposure. I know from talking to neighbors that they are especially concerned about the particulate matter pollution that will result from this plant. We live in an area that has had a myriad of problems with particulate matter in the past, and why we would now want to add to that legacy, or compromise our newly acquired attainment status, is beyond comprehension.

It's hip to support the creation of a facility that carries a green label, but as citizens with our own well being in mind, and with consideration for the health of others who are very young or very old, those who live with a disability or those who suffer from illness, we ask that due attention and honest deliberation are paid to the impact that this site will have on our city, specifically those parts that will neighbor the plant. We ask, should you move forward with this, that you do so in a way that respects the right we have to live here and to be healthy, and to walk outside and take a deep breath without harming ourselves. If you grant a permit, we ask that it include a requirement for this site to implement the absolute maximum pollution control mechanisms, so that we feel safe, and that it require continuous monitoring and reporting of all emissions, not just the title 5 set. This way we can be truly diligent in the pursuit of what I assume to be our shared goal of protecting local air quality. Many people have also suggested the installation of an air monitoring system for the West Eugene area, and we think that it would be a fantastic gesture and a demonstration of good faith for Seneca and other West Eugene emitting facilities to come together and provide some funding for that device.

These are excerpts from their personal letters to LRAPA which will be submitted as public comment:

“I've been a resident of Trainsong since 1995. There has been a continual ongoing struggle concerning the toxins in the neighborhood...A plant that wants to create a more viable means for electricity is great, but not at the cost of the citizens and homeowners that live here. Our health and property value does matter.”

“I am a disabled resident of the Santa Clara area with respiratory problems. I am all for green solutions to our energy problems, but at what cost to my neighbors and my health?...I love this area, make a sound decision and do not chase out the elderly who live here.”

This process needs to be driven by the intention to find a solution that benefits everyone, not just some. I trust you will keep that in mind and take our requests seriously as you move forward.