

From: Dan Chia [dchia@uclink.berkeley.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2003 9:15 PM  
To: Russell, Ellen  
Subject: comments on border plants

Dear Ms. Russell:

Please accept these comments regarding the subsequent environmental review of the electrical generating power plants on the US-Mexico border. I am not intimately familiar with the plants nor their specific environmental effects but I am familiar with the effects in general that can be exacted on the aquatic environment by a plant's cooling water intake structure.

I previously worked as an analyst for the California Coastal Commission and in that capacity reviewed the proposed expansion of the Morro Bay Power Plant on the central coast of California. The Cal. Energy Commission and Central Coast Regional Water Board conducted extension review of potential alternative cooling systems for that project so I encourage you to contact staff at both agencies for guidance or technical assistance. I refer you to Kevin Kennedy at the CEC and Michael Thomas at the regional board.

I urge you to fully investigate in detail all alternative cooling systems, especially dry cooling and cooling towers, that can dramatically reduce or eliminate adverse effects on aquatic organisms, phytoplankton, and other organisms, or water supply. I especially urge you to conduct an independent review as power companies have no incentive to commission non-biased studies. Dry cooling or cooling towers are proven, technically feasible technologies that are in use for certain power plants even in the Nevada desert (Duke Energy, Moapa (?) power plant).

Please include me on your interested parties list. Thank you for considering these comments and do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dan Chia

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