



Mrs. Ellen Russell  
Fossil Energy, FE-27  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Re: position on Mexico power plants Sierra Club – San Diego Chapter

Dear Mrs. Russell;

Sempra found a nice neighboring country that had fewer environmental rules than California has so they built a power plant on the Mexican side of the U.S. border and are now shipping the energy into California.

The Border Power Plant Working Group, The Sierra Club and other environmental groups were blindsided by how quickly the lines were installed and energy was sent into the Imperial Valley as a “beta test”. The quick approval raised the ire of BPPWG and the group sued the DOE (Department of Energy) for failure to do an EIS (Environmental Impact Study).

Federal District Court Judge Gonzalez ruled that the EA (Environmental Assessment) prepared by DOE for the projects was inadequate in May 2003. Judge Gonzalez gave the DOE the option of preparing a revised EA or a more comprehensive EIS in her July 2003 decision on remedies. In the meantime the plant continues to run.

The Sierra Club and BPPWG are not against the power plant and Sempra’s right to do business with whoever they want. We are saying that when electrical energy produced in another country and when that energy is for sale in this country that the power plant should meet the same environmental standards demanded for a comparable generation.

We ask that:

1. The environmental conditions be completed as directed by Judge Gonzalez
2. The power plant be dry cooled instead of water cooled thereby greatly reducing the pollution going into the Salton Sea. Dry cooling will reduce the potential air particulates that could develop as a result of using wastewater. The desert area residents, where the plants are located, will need all the sources of water they can find in the near future.
3. Sempra meet the same environmental standards as a comparable California power plant and in particular do the mitigating buy-downs for emission off-sets.

It is hypocritical for California to allow less than their standards for generation of electricity when that generation impacts our states air, water and quality of life.

Dan Perkins – Energy  
Ken Smokoska – Air Quality