Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Otis Porritt [thegriffinpassant@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 5:17 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Otis Porritt
42 Windward Way
North Falmouth, MA 02556-2101
(508) 563-5254

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Sofia Gebru [woldegiorghis@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 3:41 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Sofia Gebru
143 Cross St Apt 1
Somerville, MA 02145-4100
(617) 625-0379

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Martha Leahy [martha638@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

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Sincerely,

Martha Leahy
39 Lockeland Rd
Winchester, MA 01890-3341
(781) 729-4286

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Raymond Jussaume [janet-n-ray@jussaume.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 12:30 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

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Sincerely,

Raymond Jussaume
1091 Prospect St
Somerset, MA 02726-4423
(508) 675-7768

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Mieke Bomann [mhbomann@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Mieke Bomann
43 Orchard St
Greenfield, MA 01301-3013

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Eric Parker [theriex@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Eric Parker
8 Douglas St # 3
Boston, MA 02127-4105

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Lan Thompson [shackazu@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 6:45 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Lan Thompson
170 Dean St
Norwood, MA 02062-4784
(781) 769-4977

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Mike Prokosch [mikeprokosch@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 6:07 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Amended comment letter

Dear Ms. Farrell:

One more person wanted to sign this comment which I submitted January 20 at 2 pm. If possible, can you amend that version with this one?

Thank you so much --

Mike Prokosch

January 20, 2014

Dear Secretary Sullivan and members of the Plant Revitalization Task Force:

We are writing to support the work of your task force and also to support Rep. Lori Ehrlich's bill, H2935, which calls for a Community Transitioning Fund that will help workers and communities move from coal-fired generating plants to new job-creating industries.

We have been following the work of your task force with great interest. In dealing with coal plant decommissioning, you are confronting much broader questions about the future of fossil fuel plants, military production facilities, and other heavy industries in Massachusetts.

Manufacturing is still a significant contributor to our state's economy and an important source of well-paying, family-supporting jobs. Too often, however, it is an afterthought in state economic planning. Massachusetts needs a Plan B. We need to survey the state's manufacturing base; identify sectors and facilities at short- or medium-term risk; and develop contingency plans. Those plans could echo your focus on prior notification, community and workforce support, and environmental remediation of shuttered industrial sites. They could also look at conversion -- new uses for the facilities or new applications of the technologies currently being used there, to repurpose plants and keep them open.

Precedents and funds exist for this work. For example, the US Department of Defense's Office of Economic Assistance provides non-competitive funds for planning and conversion studies in regions that are at least 4% dependent on defense contracts. Studies like those would help us identify at-risk facilities and plan for their future.

We recognize that the future of Massachusetts manufacturing lies slightly beyond your purview, but you are raising the key questions we all need to be asking. Thank you for starting to prepare for our state's industrial future.

Yours respectfully,

Tony Dunn, Program Director

ETEAM Machinist Training Program, Lynn

Farhad Ebrahimi, Founder and Trustee Chair

The Chorus Foundation

Cole Harrison, Executive Director

Massachusetts Peace Action

Penn Loh, Lecturer and Director of Community Practice

Tufts University Dept of Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning

Marcos Luna

Resident of East Boston

Bob Massie, President

New Economy Coalition

Prasannan Parthasarathi, Board Member
Massachusetts Peace Action

Mike Prokosch, Board Secretary

Boston Climate Action Network

Paul Shannon, Program Staff

American Friends Service Committee

Aaron Tanaka, Member

Special State Commission on Job Creation

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Molly Hale [hellomolly@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 3:19 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Molly Hale
96 Oak St
Florence, MA 01062-1327
(413) 585-0791

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Katherine Batsis [kathi.batsis@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 1:41 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Katherine Batsis
15 Meridian St Apt 209
Greenfield, MA 01301-3869

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Katherine Batsis [kathi.batsis@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 1:41 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 21, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Katherine Batsis
15 Meridian St Apt 209
Greenfield, MA 01301-3869

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Sarah Forbes [katylab@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:56 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Sarah Forbes
131 Branch St
Mansfield, MA 02048-2520
(508) 339-7652

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Aditya Kumar Nochur [anochur@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:01 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: comment re: decommissioning coal plants in MA
Attachments: nochur_thesis_coal_plant_transition_MA.pdf

Dear Secretary Sullivan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on coal power plant transition in Massachusetts. I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to interview you last year for my MIT Master in City Planning thesis on this topic (attached for your reference), and I submit it to you again to ask that you enter it into the broader record for this public comment period. It is my continued hope that this document can be useful to you and your fellow task force members as you continue to consider how to create an effective framework for decommissioning coal plants in our great state, especially in light of the recent announcement that Brayton Point will shut down in 2017. I have also shared this thesis with your fellow task force members Rep. Keenan and Mayor Driscoll as well as former Sen. Knapik, all of whom I interviewed for this project, and I hope you will share this document with the rest of the task force.

First and foremost, I urge you to take measures to ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped in a truly sustainable fashion, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas (which is increasingly being extracted from domestic shale deposits via hydraulic fracturing). As detailed in The Guardian last week*, a recent report from none other than BP -- hardly an environmental activist voice -- has concluded that switching to shale gas will not reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are changing our climate. This reinforces issues I originally raised in Chapter 6 of my thesis with respect to the climate change impacts of gas and how increased gas development could undermine our state's progress towards a renewable energy future. Massachusetts is now one of the top states for cleantech in the entire country, thanks to smart policies you and your agencies are already implementing. Lets continue to build on that progress, instead of doubling down on fossil fuels that threaten our climate and our collective environmental and economic future.

I also encourage your task force to take measures to investigate and implement consensus building as a framework for making collective decisions around coal plant revitalization at local and state levels, and to regionalize the conversation around coal plant reuse. Chapters 5 and 6 of my thesis offer more detailed comments as to how you might proceed in these regards. The decisions your task force will make do not only have immediate ramifications for the coal plant host communities of Salem, Somerset and Holyoke; they also impact regional economic development, our state's broader energy policy and ultimately our global climate. Please take steps to ensure that these broader concerns are addressed as part of your task force's deliberations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit a comment on these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Aditya Nochur

* - The Guardian (January 15, 2014): "BP study predicts greenhouse emissions will rise by almost a third in 20 years."
http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/jan/15/bp-predicts-greenhouse-emissions-rise-third

Adi Nochur
Master in City Planning 2013
Dept of Urban Studies and Planning | MIT
m: 617-967-1740 | e: anochur@mit.edu

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Lena Entin [lena@n2nma.org]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 9:41 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Letter to the Task Force on Plant Revitalization

Lauren Farrell
State Executive Office: Energy & Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms Farrell;

The Mt. Tom coal burning plant has been in Holyoke for 50 years. It used to employ about 50 people. Now 18 people work there.

Burning coal 20 or 25 years ago was an important source of energy. Now we know that climate change is effected by coal and other things that make the air dirty; and the land and rivers too.

When it rains the dirt runs into the river and people had to stop fishing. The fish weren't safe to eat. People became sick. It wasn't safe to sail on the river or breath the air because of the spray.

Holyoke is the poorest city in the state. We know how important it is to have a job; how important it is to retrain people. We need money to retrain people for jobs that exist and that we can get to by public transportation.

When I go to other towns the air is different than it is here ... not heavy ... it smells different. When you leave Holyoke the air has another dimension.

When I lived in Springfield for 20 years I never had a problem breathing. In Holyoke, I do.

When it's a windy or breezy day my daughter coughs a lot. It feels like something is in her throat. She has to use an inhaler. I have a stuffy nose, my chest is sore when the days are sunny... Snow and rain clean the air.

One in every four students in Holyoke has asthma. 40% of the population has asthma and breathing problems. Some one in all the houses has this problem and some entire families have these problems.

Holyoke is in a pocket that captures and holds contamination and smells from the coal processing plant. The contamination is picked up on the wind and air currents carry it all around the world.

They say the plant will close for a year, two years from now. But our goal is to close the plant permanently, now, and send a message to the other coal burning plants in Massachusetts that coal is bad. We have to move to sources of clean energy like electricity.

Why will the plant be closed for only a year? It should be closed forever.

When the plant closes the ground around it needs to be cleaned of contamination; and checked by the state to be sure it is clean.

The owners of this coal burning plant are not here. They live in France a country without coal burning plants.

We need to send a message to the schools. They aren't teaching the technical skills needed for the future. We have to move forward. Everyone needs a good education. Public schools are key.

Carlos Rodriguez
25 Leary Drive, Holyoke, MA 01040

Vilma Vazquez
321 Tokeneke Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040

--

Lena Entin
Western Mass Organizer
295 High St., Suite 212, Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 210-4217
www.n2nma.org
actionfund.n2nma.org

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Raymond Gallison [repgallison@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 6:09 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Planning for Energy and Economic Transition

Dear Ms. Farrell:

Attached is a letter from members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, including House Speaker Gordon Fox, as well as members of the Rhode Island Senate, regarding our deep concern for the burning of coal to generate electricity.

For far too long, Rhode Island has been negatively impacted by the burning of coal to generate electricity, especially at the Brayton Point Power Plant. The close proximity of that plant effects the entire State of Rhode Island, and our citizens are subjected to the pollutants emitted into the air we breathe each and every day. This results in various health problems.

Thank you for allowing us to have the opportunity to comment on the Planning for Energy and Economic Transition for power needed and relied upon in our area.

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.
Representative - District 69

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Elizabeth Newton [info@newtonstats.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:15 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: end fossil fuels

Dear Lauren Farrell,

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Thank you very much.

Regards,

Elizabeth Newton
23 Sycamore Road
Wayland, MA 01778

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Collin Rees [collinrees@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Comment: Decommissioning of Power Plants

Dear Ms. Farrell,

As a very concerned citizen and Massachusetts resident, I'm writing to express my strong urging that MA transition its energy generation directly to modern renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power. Cape Wind is a great example of how Massachusetts can lead by example, and be a powerful force for change in the United States.

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas. This is NOT progress and will not solve the climate change crisis; it will only delay it by a few years at most. We need a fully developed clean energy economy, and we need to start aggressively building it out right now. Thanks for all you do,

Yours sincerely,

Collin Rees
26 Plympton Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

--
Collin A. Rees

E: collinrees@gmail.com
T: @collinrees
M: +1 308-293-3159

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Luean Anthony [luean@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:03 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Luean Anthony
PO Box 613
North Falmouth, MA 02556-0613
(508) 563-2370

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Carol Esler [phorestwnd@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:59 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Carol Esler
16 Oakhurst Rd
Hopkinton, MA 01748-2722
(508) 435-9294

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Barbara Miller [bara.miller@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:57 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Coal Plant Transitions in MA

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern that as we transition from coal plants in Massachusetts, we keep sight of the speed with which climate scientists have long warned we must decrease our greenhouse gas emissions. If we care at all about the effects on our younger and future generations, we need to keep sight of the understandings that resulted in the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Compared with coal, gas production, transfer, and usage, all told, do not make natural gas much of an improvement, if any, with respect to greenhouse gas pollution. In addition, fracking is polluting the watersheds and drinking water of many communities in other states; we should care about this. Though we know global warming is causing increasing desertification in areas all over the world that have been used for food production, fracking uses huge amounts of water that will be needed, contaminates it with toxic chemicals and even radioactivity, then deep-injection of this wastewater into disposal wells that are likely to have unintended releases and effects for years to come. They have also caused earthquakes and sink holes.

In the two or more years that it will take to build more fossil fuel infrastructure in Salem, we could instead require transmission upgrades and assist our utility companies, so that we stop the known, huge amount of gas leaks in the existing gas infrastructure. We could put more people to work to organize and radically increase our energy efficiency in buildings. We could engage the vast majority of citizens who realize the climate emergency we are actually in and educate others, so that we decrease our unnecessary energy use. These are issues we have been remiss in ignoring so long. There are lots of people unemployed citizens with many different skills and backgrounds who could take part in such efforts at all levels. We need to put our minds squarely on the reality of climate change bearing down on us and choose the most direct solutions that decrease fossil fuel use.

The decades-long lull between atmospheric carbon and climate effects has, until recently, made it hard to realize that we have actually been in a climate emergency for some time. Even if we stopped releasing carbon today, we have more severe effects coming from carbon released in the past, so what we do now will affect how bad things will get in the future. It's way past time to stop letting those who are invested in business-as-usual, who can't see outside the box we are in or envision a smarter, cleaner future or what those who are committed are capable of making happen. There are many, many in our state who are alarmed and despairing over climate change. We are ready, willing, and desperate to make the hard choices and do what needs to be done beyond what we can do in our personal lives and local communities. We need our state representatives to make decisions based on the warnings of climate science that we must quickly decrease greenhouse gases and have greater trust in what we can do. Please--don't replace fossil fuel plants of one type with another. If we put our heads together, we can do the right thing--and possibly be an example for other states as well.

Sincerely,

Barbara Miller

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Stanley Sayer [sayer207@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:47 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Stanley Sayer
76 Elm St Apt 114
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-2942
(617) 524-2920

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Lee Ellis [lellis601@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Decommissioning coal plants in Massachusetts

I want to add my voice to those asking the Executive Office on Energy and Environmental Affairs to avoid re-powering coal plants with with natural gas. If our goal is to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gas then building new fossil fuel infrastructure is not going to accomplish that goal. If the effort is put towards building a renewable energy infrastructure and improving energy efficiency we can meet our energy needs. The current coal plant locations, with their connections to the grid, could provide sites for grid storage facilities or renewable energy facilities.

Meeting the Commonwealths stated targets will be a challenge made more difficulty with increased fossil fuel infrastructure.

Regards,

Lee Ellis
Maynard, MA

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Brendan Banerdt [madviolist@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Brendan Banerdt
309 Beech St
Roslindale, MA 02131-4031

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Karsten Frey [kfunk83@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: No to a new gas plant in Salem, yes to accelerated green energy development

Dear Ms. Farrell,

It is good that the coal plants in Somerset and Salem are shuttering. However, it is unwise to replace them with gas power plants. While burning gas rather than coal does reduce CO2 emissions, in the long term such a replacement will make it substantially more difficult, if not impossible, to reach the goals of CO2 emissions reductions as set in place by the Global Warming Solutions Act. Building gas plants now is effectively passing the buck to future generations.

This is not an issue for the legislators, or even the citizens, of Salem to decide on their own. Yes, the jobs and tax revenue are confined to Salem, but the emissions of a fossil fuel power plant do not respect town borders. The emissions of a gas plant in Salem would contribute toward an unlivable climate for the future generations of all of Massachusetts, and indeed, the world.

It is time to decommission all coal plants in Massachusetts, to make sure that the workers and communities of these plants have assistance from the state as they transition, and to encourage energy conservation and green energy production.

Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.

Sincerely,
Karsten Frey
Scituate, MA 02066

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Mary Hall [mhh777@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: energy

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Sincerely,
Mary Hall

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Stanley Powers [spowers3192@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Stanley Powers
74 Webber Rd
West Whately, MA 01039-9603
(413) 665-3192

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Thomas Lee [thomashunterlee@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:05 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lee
99 Harlow St
Arlington, MA 02474-6823
xxxxxxxxxx

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Rachel Wyon [r.wyon2010@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:51 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Retiring coal plants in Massachusettets

Dear Lauren Farrell:

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not re-powered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

As you know, our State Legislature and Governor have already passed the Global Warming Solutions Act. Any new generation of electricity by fossil fuel burning plants would undermine this act. It is clear to me that it will not be possible to build a natural gas plant, prolonging our dependence on fossil fuels, and simultaneously lower our carbon emissions by 2050.

Thank you for looking at the big picture.

Sincerely,

Rachel Wyon
r.wyon2010@gmail.com

283 Sidney St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Jane Vieira [janevieira@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:49 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: addendum to my letter of public comment

To whom it may concern,

I already submitted a letter regarding the deconstruction, remediation and redevelopment or repowering of Massachusetts power plant sites. I meant to include links to relevant articles supporting renewable power sources, but forgot to do so. I provide them here for your earnest perusal.

Natural Gas Loses to Solar Energy on Costs, A First
http://theenergycollective.com/lewmilford/325171/natural-gas-loses-solar-costs-first?ref=popular_posts

Deutsche Bank Says Solar is Approaching Grid Parity
http://breakingenergy.com/2013/09/05/deutsche-bank-says-solar-is-approaching-grid-parity/

Charting the Course to a Renewable Energy Future
http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2013/07/30/charting-the-course-to-a-100-percent-renewable-energy-future/

We Have the Renewable Energy We Need to Power the World—So What's Stopping Us?

http://www.alternet.org/environment/are-you-ready-100-percent-renewable-energy?akid=11143.259673.TXKMXe&rd=1&src=newsletter924047&t=2&paging=off&current_page=1#bookmark

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jane Vieira
75 1/2 Atlantic St.
New Bedford, MA. 02740

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Jennifer Mazer [jmmazer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:46 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: RE: retiring coal plants

To Lauren Farrell;

I am deeply concerned that retiring coal plants could be replaced by so called "natural gas". This would make the plants unsustainable. We need to end our dependence on fossil fuels. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mazer
Somerville 02144
jmmazer@gmail.com

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Lisa Boragine [lisaboragine@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Don't replace coal with natural gas

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Lisa Boragine
Raynham MA 02767

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Ruth Ladd [wetlandmom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:37 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Salem Power Plant

I encourage the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to support the discontinuance of coal as a fuel at the Salem Power Plant. Although gas is much cleaner, takes up less space, and would be a better choice than coal, even cleaner sources of fuel (solar, wind, tidal turbines, etc.) would be a better choice for the state and region. We need to be looking at the very cleanest means of providing power at every opportunity if the state is to reach its goal of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

Ruth M. Ladd, P.W.S.
15 Pine Knoll Road
Lexington, MA 02420-1206

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Jane Vieira [janevieira@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:22 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Public input on decommissioning of power plants

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing with deep concern regarding the deconstruction, remediation and redevelopment or repowering of Massachusetts power plant sites. The small town of Somerset has the burden of hosting two coal plant sites - Montaup, which has been closed for 4 years and Brayton Point, poised to retire by June of 2017. Since Somerset has double the burden, the town deserves to be allotted much more money than other towns hosting just one. Please consider this in your deliberations as to their needs to study and implement the necessary transitions.

I am a resident of New Bedford, MA., a city within the same southcoast region and sharing in the decades of poor air quality and health concerns caused by their two coal power plants. So, my keen interest stems from a desire to see decisions regarding the future of these sites made with a much greater focus on regional responsibility; indeed, even national responsibility.

At the January 6th Task Force meeting in Somerset, it was suggested by a resident that coal should continue to be burned at the Brayton Point site in the name of fuel diversity to maintain power grid security. I adamantly disagree! It is clear that coal has become and will be increasingly uneconomical as a power source. That fact seems to be the driving reason for the closures. However, it is of much greater concern to my family that the extraction and burning of coal is but one piece in a complex puzzle of such health and environmental import as to warrant its end sooner rather than later.

The extraction and processing of coal lays waste to entire ecosystems in places like West Virginia where recent news has highlighted just the latest and largest of countless water contamination incidents in that state. When 300,000 people lose access to clean drinking water and the industry that caused the problem can declare bankruptcy and just walk away, it shows just how dire our national situation has become. Nothing is more important than clean water, air and soil - the true foundation of any and all economies. I'm not typically given to quoting foreign aristocracy, but in this case, Britain's Prince Charles hit the nail squarely on the head when he said, " We forget that the ultimate source of all economic capital is natural capital, and not the other way around." People can live with less electricity in these difficult times of transition. But no creature, human or otherwise, can live without clean water. The government declared their water safe now, yet there are reports suggesting otherwise:

http://www.examiner.com/article/w-virginia-water-burned-man-s-leg-photo

Natural gas is being touted as the clean bridge fuel to the future. Again, I adamantly disagree! Though gas burns more cleanly than coal, it's extraction through hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is wreaking havoc

everywhere it's being done, poisoning water and soil, and therefore people and animals, as well as causing earthquakes. Gag orders are being issued by courts protecting the polluting industry over citizens:

http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/57996-gag-order-imposed-on-two-kids-in-marcellus-fracking-case

http://rt.com/usa/medical-gag-rule-risks-fracking-053/

As the Natural Resources Defense Council states:

"Americans shouldn't have to accept unsafe drinking water just because natural gas burns more cleanly than coal. Many companies don't play by the rules that do exist and the industry has used its political power to escape accountability for its actions, leaving the American people unprotected. And no industry can claim to be part of the solution if it supports exemptions from basic laws designed to ensure that we have clean water, clean air, and the ability to make our voices heard."

It appears this short term bridge fuel industry is in reality a bridge to nowhere but poisoning, ecological destruction and long term suffering. The extraction and use of all fossil fuels must end, despite corporate pressure to the contrary.

I strongly urge you to consider any repowering of closed or closing coal plants to be done so using authentically clean, safe renewable sources and smart grid technologies. Investing wisely in such ways now will provide for a safer and healthier future. Life demands clean water, air and soil. We all want electricity, but not at the cost of life itself. Please make the difficult but right and just choices for our Commonwealth.

Respectfully,

Jane Vieira
75 1/2 Atlantic St.
New Bedford, MA. 02740

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Channing Migner [migner@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Salem Harbor and Brayton Point coal burning Power Plants

Lauren Farrell Executive Office on Energy and Environmental Affairs
Dear Ms Farrell:

As a concerned citizen,I strongly urge that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts (,including the 2 above) are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas." It is too much of a risk to our environment and our climate.

I would appreciate knowing what the Executive Office on Energy and Environmental Affairs' position is in this regard.You may contact me by email . See my contact information below.

Thank you for your consideration.

--
Channing Migner
118 Cobleigh Road, Boxborough,Mass. 01719
Phone: 978-635-9847

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Duff, Phyllis [pduff@worcester.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Worcester 01603

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not re-powered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Lynn Nadeau [lynnnadeau@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:30 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: no new fossil fuels in Salem!

> "Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas."

--

781-631-6288 home 978-239-9649 (iphone)
10 Surf Street Marblehead MA 01945
www.HealthLink.org
HealthLink's mission is to protect public health by reducing and eliminating environmental toxins through education, research and community action. HealthLink is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
www.ciabeachbluff.org
The Clifton Improvement Association (CIA) was established in 1934. Generous benefactors donated land, which now includes Beach Bluff Park and its spectacular Sun Circle and a parking lot. The CIA preserves, protects and improves the scenic, historic and natural character of local open and public spaces through information, education, and advocacy. The CIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: marty nathan [martygjf@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Shut coal plants -- do not convert them to natural gas.

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas. We need to follow the dictates of 350 MA's Climate Legacy Campaign: Ban the Worst (Coal, Fracked Gas), Create only the Best (Conservation, Efficiency and Renewables) and Begin to Price the Rest (Valuing fossil fuels at their real cost).
Best,
Martha A. Nathan MD
24 Massasoit Street
Northampton, MA

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Jerry Rajotte [Jerry.Rajotte@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 2:24 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Discontinuation of coal burning plants.

Hello

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas. Alternatives like Hydrogen and Clean Nuclear are available. Solar and wind can be used to separate hydrogen from water and the hydrogen can be used to produce electricity. Molten salt reactors can convert greater than 95% of nuclear waste into electricity. Imagine all the money MA would make taking in nuclear waste and then more money selling the electricity. Both of these are real technologies, both viable and sustainable as well as being a public relations achievement for the state.

Thank you and have a great day.

Life is too short to drink cheap wine!
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Jerry R. Rajotte
Philosopher Bartender
68 Buttonwood Avenue
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Zitoli, Alexander J [ajzitoli@WPI.EDU]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Paving the Way for A Sustainable World

To whom it may concern,
Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas!
The great state of Massachusetts has an opportunity to be an energy leader for the United States and the world, and if we install more CO2 emitting power plants, we will keep digging ourselves into a hole of global climate change that we will not be able to climb out of.
A concerned chemical engineering student, Alexander Zitoli

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sue Donaldson [donaldsue@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Natural gas??

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I acknowledge that natural gas is cleaner than coal.

However, we cannot afford to replace coal plants with more natural gas plants. We know that a continued reliance on any kind of fossil fuels spells disaster in the long term, for Massachusetts and the planet. A plant built today will continue to burn fossil fuel, and contribute to global warming, for decades to come.

This is a like an overweight person saying, "I will just have one more doughnut and then I'll start my diet."

Energy needs can be met with renewables and with increased efforts to improve energy efficiency. Higher energy prices are not popular, but they will encourage responsible energy use.

Thank you for thinking about our grandchildren--yours and mine.

Sincerely,

Susan Donaldson MD
187 Harvey St.
Cambridge, MA

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Shanti Gaia [shantiomgaia@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:29 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: comments on on decommissioning coal plants in Massachusetts

Hello,

Lauren,

I am a voting resident of Shutesbury MA (zip 01072).

I have comments on on decommissioning coal plants in Massachusetts that I would like you to consider.

First, and most importantly, please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

While it was great that the Global Warming Solutions Act was passed with emissions reduction goals included, there was a lack of pathways in that bill to get us to those reductions. When you consider what is required to meet those long range emissions goals, it is becomes clear that we must not build any new fossil fuel infrastructure unless it is absolutely necessary in order to meet the explicit goals spelled out in the Global Warming Solutions Act .

Please respond to this email.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely, for the Earth,

Shanti

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Kerry Thompson [thompson0692@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:10 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Retire coal plants must be redeveloped without using natural gas

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I join the thousands of others who understand that retired coal plants need to redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas. I am an active member of 350MA.org who has fought for renewable energy in our state. I hope in the next few years to see my state convert to all renewable energy as a model for other states and as a safeguard for my children's future.

Thank you,
Kerry Thompson
Lancaster, MA 01523

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Anna Lello-Smith [alellosmith@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Energy Development in Massachusetts: Don't Replace Coal With Natural Gas!

Dear Ms. Farrell,

My name is Anna Lello-Smith. I am a Massachusetts voter and college student, and I am writing because we cannot afford to replace the Salem and Brayton Point coal plants with natural gas-fired power plants. Closing these coal plants is a huge step for Massachusetts on the road to a renewable energy economy, and we should not undercut this progress by backsliding toward dependence on natural gas. Natural gas is not an acceptable "bridge fuel." Climate change is affecting us now, and we do not have time to build energy capacity around another fossil fuel whose carbon footprint is actually similar to that of coal and oil when the impact of methane leaks is considered. **Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Anna

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Patricia Benjamin [pbenjamin@igc.org]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:56 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Patricia Benjamin
739 West Rd
New Braintree, MA 01531-1614
(413) 477-6522

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: patriciaaconnors@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: public comment for Executive Office on Energy and Environmental Affairs

Dear Executive Office on Energy and Environmental Affairs,

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Sincerely,

Patricia Connors
80 Francis St. #5
Brookline, MA 02446
(617)731-6159

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Devon Grodkiewicz [dsgrod@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Comment on Decommissioning of coal plants In Massachusetts

Hi Lauren,

I'm sure you may have received a few of these emails and I thank you for taking the time to read my own.

I am a student studying Environmental Studies, many times I am grouped into the homogeny of climate change activists, but this is a narrow view to have. An interdisciplinary major to be sure it gives one a better understanding of human interaction with the environment and in many cases it serves to highlight systemic oppression that exists in the current paradigm and hegemonic culture.

This pattern of oppression that can best be associated with Environmental Studies is, of course, environmental pollution. Taking a look at where this pollution occurs you can quickly discover that it predominantly affects low income communities and minorities, those populations that typically have the lowest political efficacy. As a result, they are burdened by unnecessary medical bills that they cannot pay, asthma rates go through the roof, cancer levels are abnormally high, and overall intelligence drops off as a result of mental and brain damage due to toxicants in their environment.

To those ends we've made great strides, as an example bus terminals are now required to follow no idling laws, this can greatly help communities surrounding those terminals which are often urban, meaning they do not have the normal flora that could take these pollutants out of the air before breathing.

This oppressive cycle can be seen in climate change as well, never mind the 100 year maps of Boston where Downtown and the North End will be underwater. Look at the communities in Alaska who, as their permafrost thaws, find their houses overturned and coastal waters rising to swallow their towns. Look at the refugee camps that now exist along the borders of the Gobi desert as the water crisis in China is exacerbated by both climate change and population levels towns are swallowed in the sand.

We have an opportunity to make things right, there is no larger corporate polluter than the fossil fuel industry and natural gas is a fossil fuel.

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Thank You,

Devon Grodkiewicz

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Spencer Johnson [hutchsterling@me.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: natural gas has no place in the clean energy future of Massachusetts

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas. We've seen the problems associated with natural gas. We know clean energy and renewables are a better path. We know what we need to do so future generations have a chance of inheriting a world similar to the one that we know. Please don't let them down.

Onwards & Peace
Spence

Spencer H. Johnson
http://musingsoftheliftedlorax.blogspot.com/
http://350ma.org/climatebeat/
https://www.facebook.com/spencerhutchisonjohnson
508-789-9885

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Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Jessica Langerman [jhlangerman@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:18 PM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Please Do Not Invest Further in Natural Gas

Hello. My name is Jessica Langerman; I am the Co-President of Environmental Tax Reform - US, a national group dedicated to educating the public re: the necessity for accurately pricing carbon. We are affiliated with Citizens Climate Lobby.

I implore this administration not to retrofit retiring coal plants with natural gas infrastructure. Natural gas is NOT "clean." Its mining process emits methane, and even worse global-warming gas than CO2. We canNOT leave this legacy to our children. WE MUST PRICE CARBON AND DEVELOP RETIRED COAL PLANTS SUSTAINABLY.

A carbon tax is coming. It is inevitable; it will happen. We will put a price on carbon, and by doing so, ignite a clean-energy revolution that will leave natural gas behind.

Thank you,

Jessica Langerman
19 Comeau St.
Wellesley, MA 02481

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Faith Vigeant [faithv1@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Faith Vigeant
16 Pine St
Chelmsford, MA 01824-3554
(978) 256-6066

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Mark Sandeen [marksandeen@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:45 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Salem and Brayton Point Power Plant Plans

Dear Lauren Farrell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future uses of the Brayton Point and Salem Harbor facilities.

I am writing to oppose replacing those coal power plants with natural gas power plants.

We've already put far too many of our energy eggs in the natural gas basket. We currently generate more of our electricity from natural gas than from any other source. As a result, we've seen our electricity rates rise dramatically. Both National Grid and NSTAR raised electricity rates in the last couple of months because of significant natural gas price increases in the Boston area. NSTAR's generation rates rose 24% and National Grid's rates rose 37%.

On the other hand, we've dramatically reduced our electricity needs in Massachusetts over the last 5 years by investing in energy efficiency. EIA numbers show Massachusetts' electricity demand is down from 47 million MWh in 2007 to 36 million MWh in 2012, a reduction in demand that is the equivalent of 3 Salem coal power plants. The least expensive replacement for these coal power plants is energy efficiency. http://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/

We will have a much more resilient and cleaner energy grid if we diversify our future electricity power generation additions by emphasizing energy efficiency, wind, solar and hydro. Massachusetts has made a commitment to reduce our emissions 80% by 2050. We can't reach that goal if we continue building new fossil fuel power plants that will still be in operation for the next 50 or more years.

Best regards,
Mark Sandeen
10 Brent Road
Lexington, MA 02420

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Fran Ludwig [fludwig12@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Comment on Gas Fired Plants

We cannot achieve our goal of reducing greenhouse gases through the Global Warming Solutions Act if we become more dependent on natural gas. Energy efficiency has also significantly reduced our need to generate power. We need to further promote efficiency, but also ramp up our use of renewable energy.

The front page of the Sunday Globe had two articles, right next to each other. One was about opposition to new gas fired power plants (Salem and Brayton Point) and the other was the about the plight of home owners with steep increases in flood insurance for their coastal properties. Since the reality is beginning to dawn that climate change is here and that there will be dire consequences if we continue with "business as usual", we can't afford to take half measures. We need to draw the line and not lock ourselves in to burning fossil fuel for 50 more years (even a cleaner variety). My understanding is that there are natural gas fired power plants in other states that are underutilized and that they could contribute to our electricity needs.

I urge you to ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Fran Ludwig
19 Wyman Rd.
Lexington MA 02420
781-861-7231

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: malcolmdbliss@gmail.com on behalf of Malcolm Bliss [malcolm@350ma.org]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:19 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Coal plants in Massachusetts should be redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas.

Dear Ms Farrell,

Please ensure that retired coal plants are not repowered with another fossil fuel, such as natural gas. Natural gas is a dirty fossil fuel that emits carbon when burned and methane itself is a powerful greenhouse gas. For the sake of our planet and the future of life on earth, please do all you can to prevent repowering of retired coal plants with any other fossil fuel. Thank you for your help with this.

Regards

Malcolm D Bliss
Cambridge MA 02140

--

Malcolm David Bliss
350 Massachusetts Statewide Coordinator
Better Future Project
+1-617-821-0422
www.linkedin.com/in/malcolmdbliss

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Kenneth Weiss [shorttermproject@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:15 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Investing a billion dollars in Brayton Point is worthless, what about solar?

Think about how much more resilient stronger our grid would have been if we had a billion dollars worth of solar panels!
We have to help investors make the right choices in the future. They cannot invest in the destruction of our plant. We have to help renewables become the right economical choice.

Please ensure that retiring coal plants in Massachusetts are redeveloped sustainably, not repowered with fossil fuels like natural gas."

For our children's future.

Kenneth Weiss, Father of 4, Framingham MA, 01701

--
Kenneth Weiss
Checkout my new app,
Beat Slice: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/beat-slice/id495865909?mt=8
Blogroll: http://www.chrome-fusion.com

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Aaron Dunbrack [aaronmario@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 10:53 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Aaron Dunbrack
3 Pinehill Rd
Framingham, MA 01701-8856
(508) 820-1234

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Chris Schaffner [chris@greenengineer.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 20, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Chris Schaffner
534 Old Marlboro Rd
Concord, MA 01742-4042
(978) 369-3995

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of L. Maeve Ward [maevew@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 4:56 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

L. Maeve Ward
22 Carver Rd
Newton, MA 02461-1008
(617) 527-5331

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Deborah Ash [ashdebo@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 4:45 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Deborah Ash
30 Crescent Rd
N Weymouth, MA 02191-1404
(781) 337-4659

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Anne Salas [asacgd@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 4:26 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Anne Salas
145 Mockingbird Ln
Marstons Mills, MA 02648-1350
(508) 428-0976

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Carolyn Nikkal [ni2k_c@fastmail.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 4:15 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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All Massachusetts communities, and especially those hosting coal plants, desire a healthier economy. The state should be a partner in redevelopment and bring forth all available resources. The state has cultivated ties to clean technology and innovative businesses--now is the time to use them. We urge you to prioritize communities with coal plants for redevelopment so we can chart a new energy future for Massachusetts that doesn't leave communities and workers out in the cold.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Nikkal
14 Gay Head St
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-1219
(617) 983-8299

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Richard Payne [dannasrep@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 4:10 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Richard Payne
PO Box 734
West Falmouth, MA 02574-0734
(508) 540-4732

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of William Zarvis [solarwnz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 3:53 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

We urge the Coal Task Force/Decommissioning Subcommittee to require a strong commitment from companies to assess and clean up sites, and work with communities to establish a viable transition plan. That collaboration, and planning for worker and community transition, must begin now--not when the plants close. I also support the Community Transitioning fund as found in H2935 which aids worker and municipal transition.

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Sincerely,

William Zarvis
36 Maplewood Ave Apt 1
Pittsfield, MA 01201-4742
(413) 822-2386

Farrell, Lauren (EEA)

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Barbara Wyly [bglwyly@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 3:03 AM
To: Farrell, Lauren (EEA)
Subject: Support communities transitioning beyond coal

Jan 19, 2014

Lauren Farrell
MA

Dear Farrell,

As the age of coal nears an end in Massachusetts the communities that hosted and carried the burden for so long must now be given the support needed for a proper revitalization and redevelopment. Providing the resources now for communities to plan for redevelopment is critical to their success. Resources for post retirement planning and transition should also be the responsibility plant owners.

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Sincerely,

Barbara Wyly
27 Van Ness Rd
Belmont, MA 02478-3404
(617) 489-2673

January 20, 2014

Salem Harbor Task Force – Decommissioning Subcommittee
Via email: lauren.farrell@state.ma.us, dan.burgess@state.ma.us

RE: Comments of Sierra Club on Decommissioning Themes

Dear Decommissioning Sub-Committee Members:

On behalf of the Sierra Club we submit the following comments on the "Decommissioning Themes" proposed by the task force. We urge the task force to recommend progressive policies to retire coal in Massachusetts by decommissioning plants, and to explore opportunities to make public and private resources available to protect workers and communities in the process. Despite significant strides in the Commonwealth on renewable energy and efficiency fronts, we still receive a significant portion of our energy from coal, and frequently more than any other New England state.

In addition to the importance of protecting communities and workers in the process, we are compelled to briefly reiterate at this time the tremendously negative impacts that coal has on public health and the Commonwealth's economy. In our view, these issues have received far too little review by the task force and should be considered in the context of adopting policies to encourage the retirement of coal and the decommissioning of facilities in the Commonwealth.

Public Health Impacts

To put it simply, coal makes our families and communities sick, and the public health impacts are both quantifiable and undeniable. According to the National Academy of Sciences, the health damages caused from one coal-fired power plant average $156 million annually. These damages present themselves through health impacts ranging from asthma attacks, heart attacks, emergency room visits, learning disabilities and brain damage, premature death and lost workdays. Even coal plants that have added pollution controls continue to cause serious health effects. The Clean Air Task Force published a 2010 report showing that pollution from coal-fired power plants causes 251 deaths, 211 hospital admissions, and 471 heart attacks in Massachusetts every year. Airborne mercury pollution in Massachusetts is so significant that the Department of Public Health has issued a statewide advisory cautioning women of childbearing age, pregnant women and young children to not eat freshwater fish caught within our borders due to mercury contamination from toxic rain. 1 in 12 women of childbearing age show unsafe levels of mercury in their system. Nationwide, coal is the number one source of this environmental toxin. For facilities alike Brayton an Mt Tom, it is important to remember that these impacts will continue each year that a plant continues to operate despite retirement or delist plans.

Coal Sends Energy Dollars and Jobs out of the Commonwealth with Significant Environmental and Public Health Costs

Massachusetts relies exclusively on coal imports. As recently as 2008, the state ranked third -- behind Alabama and Florida -- in spending on foreign coal imports, over $206 million in 2008 alone.[1] In 2011, 59% of coal imported to Massachusetts came from the Appalachian region while

41% came from Colombia.[2] Appalachian coal is mined in the most biodiverse region of the country and frequently obtained via a mining practice called Mountaintop Removal (MTR) whereby explosives are used to blow the tops of mountains to facilitate ready access to coal deposits.[3] To date MTR has devastated large areas of the Appalachian region. Colombian coal on the other hand, particularly coal sourced from the Cerrejón Zona Norte Mine in Colombia, has been linked to widespread human rights violations against indigenous people as well as environmental devastation.[4]

Coal-Fired Power is one of the single largest contributors to climate change pollution in Massachusetts.

Brayton Point, in Somerset, Massachusetts remains the largest single stationary source of carbon dioxide pollution in all of New England.[5] Massachusetts has been a leader in fighting climate change, in part because it stands to suffer devastating consequences from rising sea levels and rising temperatures. In 2008, Massachusetts passed the Global Warming Solutions Act which requires the Commonwealth to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. In 2009, coal-fired power plants emitted 8.7 million tons of CO2, almost 50% of the total emissions[6] from the electric sector in Massachusetts despite providing only 23% of the electricity.[7]

Comments on Decommissioning Themes

In general, the Sierra Club views the proposed decommissioning themes as generally positive recommendations, with the following questions/comments:

(1) What is the time frame both for (a) the creation and filing of the decommissioning plans and (b) actually initiating decommissioning of the plants?

(2) What happens in the contingency that a utility cannot obtain an "acknowledgment by the ISO New England, Inc. that such facility . . . is no longer necessary for the reliable supply of electric power to the New England region"?

(3) Decommissioning should include a community and worker transition piece that identifies options for both private (e.g. the company or operator) and public resources (e.g. ratepayer support) to establish funds to assist communities and workers in the transition process. Funds identified could, for example, come from a mechanism like that proposed in HB.2935 that places a minimum surcharge of $1 per ton of carbon emitted by facilities greater than 75MW. In contrast to views that companies should not be responsible for placing resources on the table to assist with transition, including beyond plant retirement, we strongly disagree (as does national precedent for other retirements.) The companies and operators that have reaped profits for generations while making our communities and families sick bear a distinct responsibility, in our view, to help those most impacted to transition away from burning coal.

(4) The task force should recommend options for encouraging clean energy reuse of existing sites or in partnership with offsite projects. In some instances across the nation, both the existing operators and/or the public have committed resources and or requirements for renewable energy projects, investments in efficiency, or similar avenues to be part of a retirement/decommissioning process.

(5) The task force should recognize the importance of keeping a backstop or "date-certain" goal for retiring/decommissioning facilities. If resources are allocated to facilitate transition planning (especially public resources) there should be no loopholes for facilities to continue to operate beyond

2020 if the economics or other related factors provide favorable circumstances for plants to continue to operate. The only way to ensure the responsible and timely phase out of coal in Massachusetts is to require a date-certain retirement/decommissioning of facilities.

National Precedents / Case Studies

As noted, there are a number of precedents that have touched on themes raised above. In Washington State, the decision to retire the 1600 MW Transalta plant was supported by labor, utilities, and the local community and facilitated by legislation. The agreement led to a phased closure that protected workers and created a $30 million Community Investment Fund and a $25 million Technology Fund. In this instance, the company, not the public, funded the transition.

In Tennessee, the TVA settlement was heralded as the largest clean air victory in Southeastern history, saving lives and opening up 2,700 MW of market space for clean energy. In addition, the agreement also requires TVA to invest $350 million in the four states of Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee on additional air pollution-reduction projects over the next five years, including funds to help consumers and business cut their energy bills, support local businesses that are creating jobs in local clean energy projects and cut carbon pollution.

There are other examples, but each state and site will have its own challenges and opportunities. If the task force wishes to study these examples in greater detail, or review legislation or other mechanisms to facilitate retirement of coal plants, we can provide this detailed information to the sub-committee. The important piece here is that the task force, and the Commonwealth, should be thinking pro-actively about how best to retire facilities, and the key elements in each success elsewhere have included:

- A robust public process/dialog that engages the community and all stakeholders and facilitates for a meaningful outcome
- Establishing funding mechanisms for both transition planning as well as protecting communities and workers

These elements are not abundantly clear in the draft recommendations of the task force and we encourage their inclusion in the final recommendations. While Massachusetts has been a clear leader on renewable energy and efficiency, we have failed in our efforts to protect public health by requiring the orderly retirement of coal-fired electricity generation in the Commonwealth. Even a battleground state like Nevada has made bold decisions to move beyond coal, and it is time the Commonwealth becomes a leader on this front as well.

We look forward to reviewing the final recommendations of the task force, and appreciate the opportunity to comment and to have participated in the process.

Very best regards,

James McCaffrey
Senior Campaign Representative, New England
Beyond Coal Campaign

Notes:

[1] Union of Concerned Scientists, Burning Coal Burning Cash (Aug. 2010) available at http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/smart-energy-solutions/decrease-coal/burning-coal-burning-cash.html

[2] EIA Schedule 923 data

[3] To learn more about MTR, see http://ilovemountains.org/.

[4] Greenpeace, True Cost of Coal (Novmber 2009) available at http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/planet-2/report/2008/11/cost-of-coal.pdf.

[5] EPA Greenhouse Gas Program, Reporting Data for Large Facilities, 2010 available at http://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do#/facilityDetail/?q=Facility

[6] Energy Information Administration, State CO2 Emissions (October 2011) available at http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/state_emissions.cfm.

[7] Energy Information Administration, State Electricity Profiles, Table 5, Electric Power Industry Generation by Primary Energy Source 1990-2010 available at http://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/massachusetts/.