

Action Item: Does New Jersey need a new gas-fired generating station in the Meadowlands? Fight it now!

The 1200MW generating station would not even supply New Jersey. It would supply New York. The Diamond Generating Corporation, a subsidiary of Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi would build it. It would sit on 15 acres of North Bergen, taking fracked gas from the Williams Transco pipeline and water from the Bergen County Utilities Authority wastewater facility and would send electricity by cable under the Hudson River to Manhattan.

Currently, gas is cheap, but the lifetime cost of renewables – whether solar, wind, or geothermal – is lower than that of natural gas plants. As a consequence, there is no good economic reason to build fossil fuel generating plants. Renewables now represent most of the new electric generation coming on line. Any subsidy from NJ for the plant, whether through tax reductions or free water for cooling or direct subsidies, would be a complete waste.

With the move away from fossil fuels, the plant will most likely be abandoned. When abandoning it, Diamond may continue to pay property taxes on the empty shell rather than take the more expensive route of cleaning up the mess and restoring the site, further degrading the Meadowlands, an important part of New Jersey's ecosystem which protects neighboring communities from flooding.

We can do better. Gov. Murphy recently signed an order that puts New Jersey back into RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and there is a bill in Trenton to move the state to 100% renewable energy by 2035. This project would do nothing to help us get there, would lead to more fracked-gas infrastructure, would offer short-term construction jobs, but lowered property values, environmental damage, and a step backward to aging, dirty technology.

Please send your thoughts directly to the NJDEP:

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