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July 8, 2013

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Environmental Appeals Board  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

ENVIR. APPEALS BOARD

I Cristina Galan citizen of Arecibo, Puerto Rico U.S., as a person who filed comments on the public hearings representing myself and my family members, concerned of the wide variation of environmental impacts associated with power generation technologies request to the Environmental Appeals Board in Washington, D.C. to review a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) of Air Quality Permit issued to Energy Answers Arecibo Puerto Rico Renewable Energy Project.

EPA concludes that the final permit meets all applicable requirements of the PSD regulations at 40 CFR 52.21 and the Clean Air Act (the Act). EPA also accepts that burning municipal solid waste (MSW) produces nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide as well as trace amounts of toxic pollutants, such as mercury compounds and dioxins and that those MSW power plants do emit carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas. EPA also states that when fossil fuels (or products derived from them such as plastics) are burned, they release carbon dioxide that has not been part of the Earth's atmosphere for a very long time (i.e., within a human time scale).

As citizen of Arecibo living approximately 3.53 miles away from the proposed incinerator I'm concerned that the current air quality which ranges from good to insalubrious has not been taken in to account when issuing the permit. Given the fact that we already are being subjected to dangerous chemicals emitted from refineries, chemical plants, and other existing industries I encourage EAB to make a review not only for Energy Answers compliance but the impact that it will generate to the already affected air quality.

EPA recognizes that the variation in the composition of MSW affects the emissions impact. For example, if MSW containing batteries and tires are burned, toxic materials can be released into the air. I raised this important fact at the public hearing on August 26, 2012 and include a copy of my deposition as a demonstration that my concerns were raised during public comment period as I'm requested to do by the regulations at 40 CFR Part 124.

There is no knowledge of the real composition of the waste that it will be burned, since Energy Answers claims it will burn only non recyclable material therefore it will burn municipal waste like diapers with human excrement, food containers, household batteries, and other waste currently deposited for curbside pickup which after burned will release highly toxic substances to the air. This leads to serious health concerns for the people who live in the area.

It is also important to stand out that that incinerators are prone to various types of malfunctions, system failures and breakdowns, which routinely lead to serious air pollution control problems and increased emissions that are dangerous to public health. This also has been left out while emitting the permit.

For these reasons I hereby wish to file an administrative appeal of the final PSD permit decision. Thank you for allowing me to bring this to your attention,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cristina Galan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cristina Galan

Urb Radioville #121  
Ave. Atlantico  
Arecibo, PR 00612

cc. John Filippelli, Director Clean Air and Sustainability Division U.S. EPA Region 2;

Mr. Patrick Mahony, President Energy Answers, LLC

26 de agosto del 2012.

Estoy aquí hoy por que vivo a 3.5 millas de donde se propone construir la planta incineradora por lo que me preocupa grandemente la calidad del aire que yo y mis hijos vamos a estar respirando por los próximos 25-30 años de construirse dicha planta.

Tengo entendido que Energy Answers propone hacer una planta de incineración de basura con una capacidad de 2,100 toneladas diarias, dice también que quemará todo aquello que no sea reciclable o compostable, un detalle que a mi entender es importante.

Partiendo de la premisa de que la materia no se crea ni se destruye podemos estar de acuerdo en que todo lo que se incinere quedara en forma de cenizas o peor aún como particulado en el aire. Después de sacar todo el material reciclable quedaran desperdicios no reciclables como: envolturas, styrofoam, pañales desechables con desechos y excremento humano, algunos cubiertos, platos desechables u otros recipientes de comida, juguetes u otros plásticos no reciclables, baterías caseras, cartuchos de tinta de impresoras que actualmente no se separan de la basura casera, en fin un sin número de cosas que después de incinerarlas serian terriblemente tóxicas y altamente peligrosas para la salud.

La incineración entonces no es una solución para nuestro problema de la basura sino que crea un sin números de otros problemas. Por esta razón le pido a la EPA que reconsidere su posición y que no otorgue los permisos para esta planta.

Atentamente,

Cristina Galán

Residente de Arecibo