

Fact Vs. Fiction

The TRUTH about the Palmdale Power Plant

What they said about the location....

R. Rex Parris, AVAQMD Meeting, 6/21/13 claimed that Palmdale selected a site for the project “so that all of the pollution—all of it---goes to the east side where the minority community lives. That’s where the minorities live in this community---everybody knows that....How many children are we going to sacrifice so that how many local people can have a job? For a very short period of time?...Do you really want to trade 12 months of employment for the death of people?”...It could have been placed on the east side of Palmdale.”

What the FACTS say.....

The Palmdale Power Plant will be located in an industrial area on a parcel of land that is in north central Palmdale that is on the west side of Plant 42. The land was purchased from Lockheed Corporation for the power plant in March 2007. In its Final Decision, the CEC reported in the Project Alternative section which evaluated locations for the project that “based on the totality of the record and as reflected in our findings for each of the technical topics, the mitigated PHPP will not result in any significant adverse effects on the environment.” (CEC Commission Decision, Project Alternatives, Page 3-1.)

According to the CEC’s Final Decision, “Applicant and Staff evaluated three alternative sites located in Palmdale and determined there would be no appreciable advantages to using either site over the proposed PHPP site. “Of the alternative sites, two of the alternative sites were found to be infeasible. The third alternative site, which would be east of Plant 42, was found to have greater environmental impacts to biological resources, the linears would be longer, and there would be increased visual impacts.” (CEC Commission Decision, Project Alternatives, Page 3-8.)

In addition, the CEC’s Final Decision also included a study of the plant’s impact to the social and economic structure within the project vicinity and region resulting from the construction and operation of the project. The CEC stated, “In light of our finding that all PHPP significant impacts are mitigated below significance, we find the PHPP will not cause or contribute to disproportionate impacts upon minority or low income populations.... We therefore conclude that the project construction and operation activities will create some degree of benefit to the local area and will conform to principles of environmental justice.” (CEC Commission Decision, Socioeconomics, Pages 8.3-8 and 3-10.)

What they said about killing kids on soccer fields...

Marvin Crist - Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) Meeting, 6/21/13 - "What do we get for it (the power plant)? 35 jobs? And you're killing our kids on the soccer fields.... You're talking hundreds of tons of pollutants that's killing our kids.... You're not going to kill our kids for 35 jobs..... My position is we can do better. I don't want 35 jobs. I want 1,000 jobs."

What the FACTS say.....

The California Energy Commission (CEC) stated in its Commission Decision on the Palmdale Power Plant issued in Aug. 2011 "the Conditions of Certification also assure that the project will neither result in, nor contribute substantially to, any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse environmental impacts." (CEC Commission Decision, Findings, Page 1.)

The CEC's Final Decision, Air Quality section, Conclusions of Law, 6.2-35, which states "Implementation of the Conditions of Certification ... ensures that the project will not result in any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to air quality."

What they said about an imaginary 6 mile high plume.....

Marvin Crist, AVAQMD Meeting, 6/21/13 - "You're talking a plume that will be 6 miles in the air---steam, but at some times it will be six miles in the air....It still burns fossil fuels, tons of emissions going over the top of the soccer fields - a plume that will be six miles high on a daily basis."

What the FACTS say.....

CEC Commission Decision, Visual Resources, Pages 8.5 18 & 19 states: "Under certain weather conditions, visible water vapor plumes would emanate from the exhaust stacks and cooling tower." The documentation states that the plumes are seasonal, during certain hours, conditions, and generally Nov. through April. The report stated: "The original 20th percentile plume dimensions from the proposed ten-cell cooling towers were estimated at approximately 574 feet high, 161 feet wide, and 225 feet long. Based on the PSA workshop, Staff revised the plume modeling ... and the revised plume dimensions are larger than earlier calculations: 622 feet high, 203 feet wide, and 231 feet long."

What they said about the landscape.....

R Rex Parris, Lancaster City Council Meeting, 6/22/10 - Claims the PHPP Parris "significantly alters the landscape."

What the FACTS say.....

CEC Commission Decision, Visual Resources **states:** "we find that the gas turbine/HRSG exhausts will have a plume frequency of less than 20 percent of seasonal clear hours, and would therefore result in less than significant visual impacts." (CEC Commission Decision, Visual Resources, (Page 8.5-19.) Also, in the Conclusions of Law section the CEC stated that "Implementation of the following Conditions of Certification will result in the project causing no significant direct or indirect impacts to visual resources. (CEC Commission Decision, Visual Resources, Conclusions of Law, Page 8.5-23.)

What they said about killing people.....

R. Rex Parris, interview on Time Warner Cable, 6/21/12 - claimed that the EPA stated “that type of power plant will kill people with emphysema, COPD... all of the diseases that are present in Lancaster.”

What the FACTS say.....

The CEC’s Final Decision, states in the Public Health section, 6.3-12: “There is no competent evidence in this record that PHPP poses any threat to the health of the public in general, or to residents of Lancaster in particular.”

Gerardo Rios, a Chief with the EPA’s Pacific Southwest, Region 9 stated, “we referenced an environmental justice analysis where we look at health standards and the impacts, to see if there ... would be any disproportional impacts in the area, and we showed that because a standard was not going to be exceeded, there would not be any disproportionate impacts in the area. ... So as far as I’m concerned, or as far as I know... this is the cleanest power plant the EPA has permitted in the country.”

The CEC’s Final Decision, Air Quality section, Conclusions of Law, 6.2-35 the record states: “The Commission therefore concludes that implementation of the Conditions of Certification, below, and the mitigation measures described in the evidentiary record, will ensure that the PHPP conforms with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards relating to air quality.”