

HealthLink

Linking Health and the Environment

P.O. Box 301
Swampscott, MA 01907
www.healthlink.org

Phone: 781.598-1115
healthlink@healthlink.org



Our Mission:

To protect and improve public health by reducing and eliminating pollutants and toxic substances from our environment through research, education, and community action.

Board Members

Kevin Andrews
Jane Bright
Pat Gozemba, Ed.D.
Jody Howard
Laura Leeson
Cate Maas
Gail McCormick
Lynn Nadeau

Advisory Board

Burt Apple
Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell
Polly Bradley
Lawrence Block, MD
Art Burns, Esq.
Bruce Egan
Lisa Evans, Esq.
Mike Jacobs
Cindy Luppi
Lee Mondale
Doug Petersen
Robert J. Tina

Core Members

Dorothy Allen
Hope Benne
Avi Chomsky, Ed.D.
Claudia Chuber
Elaine Denune
Michelle Gottlieb
Nancy Hamlin
Alan Hanscom
Marilyn Humphries
Dolores Jordan
Karen Kahn
Kathleen Klett
Krishna Mallick, Ph.D.
Jean Oliphant
Julian Pelenur
Kate Simmons
Will Warren
Linda Weltner

Executive Director

Martha Dansdill

Linked Groups

Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow
Clean Water Action
Conservation Law Foundation
Green Peace
Safer Waters in Massachusetts
Sierra Club

July 8, 2009

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Your comments at the May 21 public forum in Marblehead regarding Dominion's Salem Harbor Power Station led us to believe that an announcement about the future of the power plant would be forthcoming. The Salem News (May 22) – 'The governor said he was in talks with Dominion, owners of the plant: "And we shall have something to say in a couple of weeks."'

We request that the state reveal what is in store for the future of the Salem Harbor Power Station.

It is rumored that DEP is looking favorably on biomass incineration for Salem Harbor Power Station. We hope this is not the case. Biomass incineration is much more hazardous than generally believed, as the burning of waste, wood or debris, etc. releases hazardous air pollutants which are NOT regulated as major criteria pollutants are. The very creation of biomass, its transport, storage, and incineration greatly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, describing such waste as 'renewable' is a misnomer, undermining the true meaning of renewable energy. The replacement of a full grown tree in 40 years is NOT renewable.

The aging Salem Harbor Power Station has served its useful life. There is a dramatic reduction in the plant's work force from robust to skeletal. There are numerous malfunctions at the plant (log attached). Dominion has neglected upkeep and refused to conduct basic maintenance - nor have they invested money in the facility. This dereliction compounds our concerns for the safety of the neighbors and the workers, for the degraded quality of the air and water, and for the fiscal potential of a magnificent Salem property.

Respectfully,

Martha Dansdill
Executive Director
on behalf of the HealthLink Board of Directors

Attachment

cc: Sec. Ian Bowles, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Senator Fred Berry
Rep. John Keenan
Rep. Mary Grant
Rep. Lori Ehrlich
Mayor Kim Driscoll
David Cash
President Barak Obama