

Comments Filed with the TCEQ by the League of Independent Voters of Texas on Bastrop Peakers LLC Plant. Permit info [HERE](#).

The area surrounding the existing Bastrop Energy Center is quickly becoming heavily urbanized, with several new housing subdivisions and apartment complexes presently being planned and developed. That TCEQ would permit the addition of six additional power turbines (the Bastrop Peaking Center) to the existing facility at southeast of Wolf Lane and Highway 71 close to the Travis County line, with its accompanying new sources of pollution is unacceptable.

The resulting air pollutants will affect the health of the thousands of people who are and will be living near the plants. The thousands of tons of additional carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, and heavy metals that the plants will emit have been well documented elsewhere.

The effects of additional light and noise pollution have not been addressed and require attention. The power plants are located on high ground: the light from the existing plants can be seen for many miles around, and are a significant source of light pollution. The noise from the two existing turbines is described by a nearby resident as constant: like a jet plane passing low overhead.

The tripling of the generating capacity being considered by TCEQ will greatly increase both light and noise pollution. If the additional plants are permitted, the permit must include effective noise and sound mitigation.

The area is becoming heavily urbanized; residents must not be subjected to the detriments caused by pollution from the power plants.

The permit must require only focused, low intensity lighting. Operating lights that are needed only at times of inspection and maintenance must be switched off when not needed. Perimeter and security lighting must be kept to a minimum and allowed only where crucially needed.

To mitigate the noise pollution emitted by the eight turbines, cooling systems, and other sources of noise, extensive sound barriers must be required that will effectively protect residents.

The additional light and noise mitigations that are needed are relatively inexpensive and should not prove an excessive financial burden on Milepost Power: They are simply good business. There is no reason why such mitigation should not be required.

Even with the additional light and noise mitigation, the Plants' expansion is inappropriate for this area and should not be permitted: it is simply too urbanized.

We believe there are issues with nonattainment of air quality with this plant so close to the Travis County line, but this is beyond the scope of what we can argue and take the time to argue when TCEQ is so unresponsive to millions of people across Texas who are suffering from the effects of a captured agency. TCEQ staff are good people working in a bad system, so we do not fault them. It is the Legislature that has allowed for what is happening to Texas, our land, our people and our wildlife.