

SHORTS

Contact Your City Councillors

It is imperative that we let our elected representatives know how important this issue is for our neighborhoods. Brandeis and CNG have been working with the city council for several months via an attorney, Philip B. McCourt, and a lobbyist, Jack Snedeker. By contrast, the Coalition has been working openly, strictly with the assistance of volunteers.

If you haven't done so already, please write or call your city councillors listed below. And just for good measure, you might also let Mayor Stanley, Waltham City Hall, 893-4040 and Dr. Evelyn Handler, president, Brandeis University, 415 South St., 736-3001, know what you think of this power plant.

Edward F. Callahan, 47 Overlook Rd. 899-1131
William J. Eckland, 44 Brewster Rd. 894-0090
Gerald J. Feeley, 248 Lowell St. 899-0582
David F. Gately, 291 Hardy Pond Rd. 891-4773
Paul W. Giunta, 96 Main St. 894-0825

Joseph D. Goode, 39 Brigham Rd. 899-1558
Robert G. Logan, 109 Taylor St. 893-3572
Anthony M. Mandile, 192 Willow St. 894-7435
Donald J. Manning, 16 Grant Palce 893-7764
Bryan McCarthy, 195 Villa St. 894-6684

Kathleen B. McMenimen, 147 Trapelo Rd. 894-1247
Michael J. O'Halloran, 19 Madison Rd. 891-7304
James E. Regan, 15 Juniper Hill Rd. 893-1181
Edmund P. Tarallo, 52 Montview Ave. 891-0008
Peter G. Trombley, 279 Bishops Forest Dr. 899-3419

About The Coalition

The Coalition for the Preservation of a Neighborhood Environment Environment has been working hard to learn details of this project--and it's been an uphill process. As a first priority, we have endeavored to learn what information we have the right to know--and then we have encouraged Brandeis and CNG to be candid. Unfortunately, we have been met by an unyielding wall of the the oft-heard response: "It's only in the feasibility stage."

Make no mistake, this development project will not just fade away. *Few profit-making corporations quietly walk away from a potential \$35 million in gross annual sales.*

Unlike Brandeis and CNG, the Coalition's activities are volunteer. We are grateful for the generous contribution, both time and money, members of the community have made. In addition to Waltham residents, we have received support from Weston, Newton, Cambridge and Lexington.

Since Brandeis first announced its plans to the community in September, here are some of the things the Coalition has accomplished:

- * We have written our city, state, and federal representatives outlining our concerns and requesting their support.

- * We have contacted various environmental and conservation groups requesting information and guidance.
- * We have contacted surrounding communities to alert them to the threat this power plant presents. In discussions with the City of Cambridge's Water Board, the Coalition helped outline the wetlands threat this power plant proposed to their public drinking water supply. Partially as a result of this contact, Cambridge has requested that Brandeis move the plant out of its watershed, "based on the very limited information available."
- * We have established a telephone network to alert concerned neighbors of any activities or news regarding the power plant.
- * We are circulating a petition to present to the city council, asking our locally elected officials to oppose the siting of power plants in residential neighborhoods.
- * We participated in a Massachusetts Area Planning Council public hearing concerning the Cambridge Watershed Protection Plan.

The "Oh, Really?" Department

- "There is no reason to believe that property values will be affected."

Does CNG have experience to support this claim? Despite repeated requests from the Coalition to see a power plant of similar magnitude located in a residential neighborhood, CNG has so far been unable to locate one.

For most Americans, our homes are our largest investment. A power plant of this size will be quite large enough to cast a dark cloud over local property values.

- "The Sierra Club endorses natural gas cogeneration."
- True, but what they don't endorse is this Brandeis/CNG power plant. And they don't like cogeneration power plants which burn oil as a backup. (Incidentlly, the Sierra Club's cogeneration expert was unequivocal: *"No, I wouldn't want an 84-megawatt power plant in my neighborhood."*)
- "This will not be huge at all "
- No? Is it small? *Consider: this 84-megawatt plant will generate enough electricity to power a city over NINE TIMES the size of Waltham.* What size of an industrial power plant belongs in a quiet, residential neighborhood? None.
- "Because of the terrain, neither the facility nor its stack would even be visible from the majority of surrounding properties."

True, if you live in a Brandeis dorm. A site inspection the weekend of January 6-7 revealed one balloon marking a corner of the building at no more than six feet off the ground. What does this mean? Drastic excavation, blasting, cutting and filling. Half the hill could be removed with clear-cutting of the entire hillside.

In this case, the natural buffer between the Brandeis campus and the power plant would remain intact. Unfortunately faor the people of Waltham, the natural barriers of hills and trees between the power plant and private homes in Cedarwood will be blasted away.

- "It's just in the feasibility stage."

Would you walk away from a \$100 million project potentially worth \$35 million in gross annual sales just because you met some community opposition? *As a clear indicator of the seriousness of its intent, CNG, has paid a \$180,000 deposit to a gas company for a transportation contract.*

Such potential for big bucks prompted CNG to send their community relations person, together with a senior company official, house to house on a recent Saturday in an effort to convince Brandeis' neighbors of the ways in which this power plant will improve our quality of life.

- "The specific site has not been chosen."

Despite community concern, despite the City of Cambridge's specific written request that the plant be relocated away from its watershed, where were the balloons flying the weekend of January 6-7? Right smack dab next to the reservoir, alongside the children's playground on Intervale and Westgate Roads. This site has always been the "most attractive because of the economic advantage" to CNG.

- "The plant will be required by law to meet stringent federal and state air quality standards."

True, the plant will be built to specifications established by law. But once it is operational, who will run the periodic testing to make certain the plant is operating safely and within the letter of the law? CNG.

This is a little like inviting the fox into the henhouse to count the chickens.

There is no city, state, or federal agency that will monitor this power plant on a short, periodic basis, once it is constructed. CNG will test the groundwater runoff around the site. CNG will monitor the emissions coming out of their three stacks. CNG will do the air sampling.

We just have to trust them.

Walk Softly and Carry a Big Carrot

Brandeis and CNG have mounted a sophisticated and well financed public relations campaign. Many of us have received

letters, even personal visits form CNG. Attorney Philip B. McCourt has been hired and the Brandeis/CNG team is working with city hall through the efforts of its lobbyist, Jack Snedeker.

Many 'carrots' have been offered by Brandeis and CNG to the city and to our neighbors as incentives to accept the siting of this power plant in our residential neighborhood. However, there is a gaping discrepancy between how these read on paper and what these carrots are in reality.

Carrot: This project will provide much-needed electricity to local users.

Reality: In early December, Boston Edison rejected the Brandeis/CNG power plant proposal. Undeterred, Citizens Power and Light (the broker on this development project) is now seeking to sell the electricity to other utilities in western Massachusetts. *The power generated here in Cedarwood could end up going as far away as New Hampshire and Vermont.*

Carrot: At the peak of construction, the project will provide approximately 200 local trade union jobs.

Reality: Don't bet on it. Non-union workers from New Hampshire are currently building the parking lot adjacent to the new Sports Center on the Brandeis campus.

Carrot: Citizens Power and Light will use part of the project revenues to lower electricity costs at the Waltham-Weston hospital.

Reality: You can file this one under "believe it when you see it." According to CNG, there is nothing on paper confirming such a plan. And there are many qualifiers: there would only be profit-sharing (of an unspecified amount) if and when Citizens showed some unspecified profit margin.

Carrot: Waltham electric customers will financially benefit from reduced utility bills.

Reality: How much? Well, you couldn't take it to the bank. CNG and Brandeis will not state, nor guarantee, any specific dollar amount.

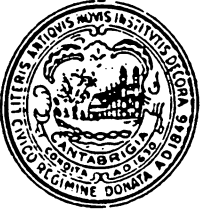
Carrot: Independent experts will answer any health, safety or environmental questions.

Reality: These "independent" experts are on the payroll of Brandeis and CNG.

Carrot: Waltham residents will be able to enjoy more Brandeis cultural benefits as a result of the savings on steam the university will achieve.

Reality: David Rosen, Brandeis Vice President for Public Affairs, says, *"I don't think the argument should be oversold. The motivation for doing this is not to help the community. The motivation is to help Brandeis save money on its utility bills."*

Carrot: Taxes and fees paid will make a significant impact on the city's revenues.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

250 FRESH POND PKY., CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • TEL. 498-9070

OFFICE OF THE WATER BOARD

Donald F. Hornig
President

Thomas J. Begley

Ruth C. Birkhoff

Walter N. Conlon

A. Paul Flynn

December 13, 1989

Dr. Evelyn Handler, President
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA. 02254

Re: PROPOSED CNG CO-GENERATION POWER PLANT @ BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Dear Dr. Handler:

The Cambridge Water Board has recently become aware of the proposed Co-Generation Power Plant project at Brandeis. Based on information presented to our staff by a representative of CNG, it is our understanding that the proposal consists of a new power plant that will utilize oil and natural gas to produce both electricity and steam. The current plans involve siting the new power plant on the Brandeis Campus within the watershed of the Stony Brook Reservoir, a public drinking water supply for the City of Cambridge. No information has been presented that indicates any evaluation of alternative sites on the Brandeis Campus, but outside of the Stony Brook watershed has taken place.

The City of Cambridge, with the assistance of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (M.W.R.A.) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (M.A.P.C.) has recently developed a "Cambridge Watershed Protection Plan" that identifies existing and potential threats to the Cambridge water supply. Examples of existing threats located in the watershed include highway drainage, fuel storage, hazardous wastes generated at industrial facilities, and municipal sanitary land fill operations. Naturally we are concerned about any project which will add to the existing threats

Based on the limited information available on the proposed power plant project, it is our opinion that a facility of the contemplated magnitude within the Stony Brook watershed poses a potential health threat to the Cambridge water supply, and that Brandeis University should reconsider its options and relocate the site.

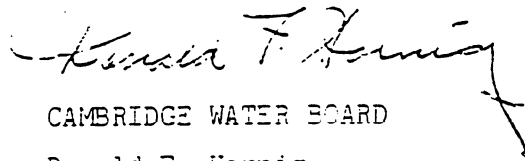
Dr. Evelyn Handler,
President
Brandeis University

- 2 -

December 13, 1989

The Water Board would be interested in discussing this project with a representative of Brandeis at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald F. Hornig", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

Donald F. Hornig,
President

DFH/mp



City of Cambridge

18.

IN CITY COUNCIL
February 12, 1990

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record strongly opposing the proposed Brandeis University/CNG Energy Company construction of an 84 megawatt cogeneration power plant on the watershed and wetland buffer surrounding the City of Cambridge's public drinking water reservoir in Waltham.

In City Council February 12, 1990.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

REFERRED TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



City of Cambridge

18.

IN CITY COUNCIL
February 12, 1990

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record strongly opposing the proposed Brandeis University/CNG Energy Company construction of an 84 megawatt cogeneration power plant on the watershed and wetland buffer surrounding the City of Cambridge's public drinking water reservoir in Waltham.

FEB. 12 1990

City Council _____

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 8 members

Joseph E. Conerton City Clerk

Referred to the Environment Committee

Order # 18

S 120

Councillor Russell re: opposing construction
of power plant by Brandeis University in
Waltham.

In City Council,

February 12, 1990

Order adapted

Referred to the

Environment Committee

*Copy sent to Environment
Committee 2/14/90 (de)*