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By _____

602 S. San Marcos Circle
Gilbert, AZ 85296
January 3, 2001

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

Salt River Project L-00000-B-00-0105
Santan Expansion

Dear Mr. Mundell,

Thank you for the time spent hearing the residents of Gilbert's concerns. The San Tan plant has until this year, operated mainly in summer months when the pollution disperses into the air better than in the winter. With the California situation, SRP has found it profitable to operate the plant year round this year. This is the first year I have seen thick haze hanging around in the air of Gilbert. Usually, you can look towards downtown Phoenix and notice the hazy air in the distance. Now we have many days where it surrounds us like a thick fog.

This last Tuesday, we had an especially bad air inversion day. The plant was putting out a huge cloud of vapor and the haze was so thick you could cut it with a knife. Although they have used diesel this year, that day they were using natural gas. At my daughter's elementary school, 3/4 of a mile from the plant, children were out on the playground playing in this hazy polluted air with a huge cloud of vapor in the background. I can only imagine it was worse at Finley Farms Elementary which is only 1/2 mile from the plant.

These inversions usually disappear in the late afternoon when air near the ground warms up and our children are out of school. But our children are in Gilbert all day. They don't leave town to go to work or school. (Even after the haze disappeared I could still see brown stuff hanging in the air over the plant.)

If this expansion gets built, this haze will become a permanent phenomenon in Gilbert on our stagnant air days. SRP is not taking into consideration the fact that they are going from summertime operations to a year round plant operating at approximately 80% capacity. Wintertime pollution will increase almost 100% from past years. Winter is the worst time for asthmatics in the valley!

As more plants are built and electricity prices go down, I am confident that SRP will not find it cost effective to operate their older plant year round as they have done this year. It has always been cost effective to only operate this older plant on peak demand days for SRP in the past. Please don't let SRP build a base load plant designed to operate year round in our neighborhood. This will be a very unhealthy place to live if this is approved. We have lived here 12 1/2 years and don't want to be driven out of our home to protect our children's health!

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Payer
Suzanne Payer

Arizona Corporation Commission

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