

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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Arizona Corporation Commission Members

July 7, 2011

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Arizona Corporation Commission  
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Re: Mohave Electric Cooperative, Inc. Waste-to-Energy (E-01750A-10-0453)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona. We represent over 500 members here in Arizona and are very concerned about the threats to the quality of our air, toxic materials in our communities and the impact of air pollution on climate change, which are dangers to all of us.

We support the unique and forward thinking RES in Arizona that will help us address climate change and further the development of a renewable energy economy for our State. We oppose any exceptions to the RES in Arizona, which now specifically excludes the incineration of trash. We oppose burning of trash or other materials as a way to achieve the RES. We also feel strongly that incineration contributes to air pollution for our State.

Burning municipal solid waste is not a renewable energy resource and there is no innovative technology involved, so the waste-to-energy project proposed by Mohave Electric should not qualify as a pilot project. It should not be granted a waiver, because there has been no demonstration of the need for such a waiver by the applicant and the project is inconsistent with the goals of the Renewable Energy Standard.

The air pollution this facility would generate, especially if it is located in the Phoenix Nonattainment Area for ozone and particulates, as the applicant has indicated. These facilities emit hazardous air pollutants, such as mercury, compounds that contribute to the formation of ozone, and many others. **We, as health professionals understand that mercury causes neurological diseases and birth defects and that ozone causes severe asthma attacks and deaths, and chronic lung diseases.**

If approved, this facility could also hinder the great recycling efforts in the Phoenix area and take our communities backward by allowing materials that could otherwise be recycled to be fed into this facility, which in turn would contribute to further air pollution and the generation of more toxic pollutants.

**Please oppose the waiver or any permit to the Mohave Generating Station to either burn wastes to produce energy or consider waste incineration as any kind of renewable energy resource.**

Thank you for your careful and thoughtful approach to these concerns, which affect you and your families' and your children's health and futures very directly.

Sincerely,

Barbara H. Warren. MD, MPH  
Physicians for Social Responsibility,  
Arizona Coordinator and Regional Director on the National Board of PSR  
3653 N Prince Village Place, Tucson, ARIZONA 85719