

Dear Ron:

Thank you for providing draft minutes promptly.

First, let us take note of the unfortunate death of Cape Gazette reporter Jim Cresson a couple of days after the 3/9 meeting. I sent the following letter to the Cape Gazette which contains my views:

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*I was truly dismayed to hear of the death on Monday evening of Jim Cresson in a vehicle accident.*

*Jim's reporting contributed a lot to the community.*

*For example, his persistent reporting on the emissions from the Indian River Power Plant (many thousands of tons per year of health-damaging pollutants) helped raise awareness of the harm being done by this facility and probably contributed significantly to present pressures to clean it up.*

*Jim will be greatly missed.*

*Alan Muller*

*Director, Green Delaware*

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All of who are concerned about the impacts of the Indian River Power Plant are indebted to Jim and the Cape Gazette for his reporting on this issue over past few years and his death removes a significant voice. RIP.

I am not sure that the video on the IRPP made by Mike Short, Fuente de la Electricidad ("Source of Electricity") has been discussed. Title notwithstanding, the video is in English and should be seen by all concerned. I have copies of this (DVD) to offer, but suggest perhaps we could arrange for interested folk to see it at DNREC either before or after the next meeting. Can this be arranged?

I would like to have added to the site my letter which ran yesterday (March 15th) in the Delaware State News. This can be taken as a "first response" from Green Delaware to the operator presentations on march 9th. Here is the text of the letter:

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***Power plant cleanup proposals merit close attention.  
[Dover slow to clean pollution]***

*The Minner administration, to it's credit, is proposing regulations to significantly clean up Delaware's coal and oil-burning plants. (Also, somewhat out of character, DNREC invited Green Delaware to participate in a "regulatory advisory committee.")*

*This is timely because:*

*(1) These plants belch thousands of tons per year of health-damaging air pollutants into Delaware's air each year, contributing to asthma, bronchitis, cancer, and other serious health problems;*

*(2) the polluter-favoring Bush administration is obviously not going to get the job done with*

*Federal regulations; and*

*(3) because of ill-advised "deregulation," many of these plants are making tons of money and can well afford to clean up their acts NOW.*

*The three main targets of the proposed regulations are NRG (Indian River Power Plant, the worst polluter), Conectiv (Edge Moor Power Plant), and The City of Dover (McKee Run power plant).*

*On March ninth these three parties responded. Not surprisingly, they don't much like the idea of being required to spend money to clean up. We heard the usual threats of zooming rates, shutdowns, and the lights going out.*

*But NRG and Conectiv did propose limited and inadequate cleanup measures.*

*The City of Dover, on the other hand, seemed defiant, saying "we don't think we should have been invited to this dance at all, " and offering few signs of cooperation.*

*In fairness to the City, Dover's emissions are small compared to the two other "big stinkers." But on the other hand, the City of Dover is a government, not a profit-seeking corporation, and its first priority should be the health and safety of the citizens. The McKee run plant, as Dover officials pointed out, is in a residential area.*

*Green Delaware has asked Dover City manager Tony Deprima for more information and we are sure it will be provided.*

*Meanwhile, Dover residents concerned about their health might want to pay attention to the City's positions as this issue develops.*

*Many people seem intrigued by talk of NRG building a coal "gasification" power plant at the Indian River (Millsboro) site. This is a relatively new power plant technology and can be usefully cleaner than traditional coal power plants. NRG is angling for various subsidies and other inducements from Delaware, as well as other possible locations.*

*But, we all need to be aware that NRG is NOT now promising to shut down any of the existing old, dirty units at Indian River. So, it is possible that pollution from Indian River could increase, not decrease, if Delaware officials screw up. (Of course, we know this seldom happens....)*

*Alan Muller*

*Green Delaware*

*[www.greendel.org](http://www.greendel.org)*

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*As for the minutes themselves, I think they should reflect in more detail what was actually said by whom in response to the operator presentations.*

*Including, from Muller:*

*I asked DOVER for additional justification for the assertions regarding the probable impact of the proposed regs on the economic viability of the plant, and projected capacity factor post-cleanup.*

*The proposals from NRC and Conectiv seem to rely on duct sorbent injection for SO2 control, and reject installation of "scrubbers." This would not meet minimum expectations for emissions*

reduction. The impact on particulate emissions could be negative.

I particularly objected to Conectiv's presentation of wet scrubbers and duct sorbent injection as alternatives with no discussion of "dry" scrubbing. This seemed intended to keep "off the table" what might be the most viable technology for E-M.

Both NRG and Conectiv seem to be rejecting mercury controls, sometimes claiming that this is not commercially demonstrated. We do not agree.

The mercury emissions reported by Conectiv for E-M were very inconsistent with their TRI reporting for the same facility. I found this disturbing, and the explanations offered even more disturbing. It is simply not acceptable, ethically or professionally, for Conectiv to try to give the committee the impression that it's mercury emissions are a fraction of what they are reporting to another program.

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For some time Green Delaware has been pointing out that the Delaware TRI mercury reports for power plant emissions have not seemed to make sense. We would like to be provided as soon as possible with the 2004 TRI mercury data. (The pie chart in Ron's opening presentation is interesting but the underlying data are needed....)

At this point, we need to know more about likely total site emissions from IRPP under scenarios including installation of a IGCC plant and retention of existing units. Can AQM prepare some estimates?

Yours very truly,

Alan

Alan Muller, Executive Director  
Green Delaware  
Box 69  
Port Penn, DE 19731 USA  
(302)834-3466  
fax (302)836-3005  
greendel@dca.net  
[www.greendel.org](http://www.greendel.org)