

July 30, 2008

Honorable Ed Rendell, Governor
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Erie Renewable Energy Tires-to-Energy Plant Proposal – Erie, PA

Dear Governor Rendell:

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie, at its June 23, 2008 board meeting, unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to Erie Renewable Energy's (ERE) Tires-to-Energy plant proposed for East Lake Road and Downing Avenue in Erie.

According to ERE's Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) application for an air quality permit, dated December 2007, this plant will combust 28 million tires per year. ERE identifies itself as a Title V major polluter that will generate over 1,500 tons of various pollutants annually. The complete application has now been placed on our website WWW.HACE.ORG for the convenience of our residents and the general public.

The Authority has taken its position in opposition to the plant because we provide safe, decent and affordable housing for 2,700 individuals (900 families) who live within one (1) mile of the proposed site. The average annual income of these families is \$13,000, which severely limits their housing options. Overall, the neighborhood where the plant is proposed has a relatively high concentration of minorities and low-income households, compared to the City as a whole. The demographic information provided in the ERE application (Alternative Site Analysis, page 12) stating otherwise has little or no basis in fact.

There are already three Title V polluters in the same general vicinity of the proposed tire plant. The Authority strongly believes that the location of a fourth Title V polluter in our neighborhood would be a clear case of environmental injustice.

Our residents met with Ayanna King, DEP's environmental justice advocate on June 18. However, her general response is that the City of Erie has the responsibility and power to stop this plant. The local elected officials tell us that it is out of their hands and up the Department of Environmental Protection. Our neighborhood residents are caught in the middle.

For your background information, I have enclosed a copy of the board's resolution along with our news release and my prepared remarks, which were delivered at a Housing Authority news conference on July 3, 2008.

This proposed plant has become one of the most controversial and divisive issues in the history of Erie. Although we all want jobs for our community, the price we would have to pay for the promise of 60 jobs does not begin to mitigate the damage that this plant would do to the health of our residents, not to mention the image of our city.

Your assistance is requested to assure that our opposition to the plant, on the issue of environmental justice, get a fair hearing before the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

John E. Horan
Executive Director and Secretary

JEH/ml:7.30.1

Enclosures

cc: Board of the Housing Authority
Gayle Wright, Director of PA Tourism