

Docket Number **M-2026-3059601**

On the Topic of Recommissioning the Cromby Power Plant or it's demolition and replacement with a Data Center

Hello,

I wish to express my complete opposition and overall disgust to the idea of recommissioning the Cromby Coal based power plant, or its demolition and sale for future use as a Data Center. As a resident who lives within 1 mile of the Cromby site, to see its recommissioning as a fossil fuel based power plant or worse a data center, would be a travesty to the local community and the families who have since moved here and thrived in the years since the sites decommissioning. Not only does this idea raise serious concerns about health and safety, but it would also make living here far less desirable and likely scaring away future residents as well as the current ones and the tax dollars associated with them. All the benefits these developers, data center companies or utility companies would promise would come at our expense, forcing most to look elsewhere.

One can visualize being a family and living in the wake of this environmental disaster and having to regulate how many hours your children can play outside. Or on certain days, depending on the direction of the wind, suggesting to the local citizens to wear masks or not to drink the water? We all saw how well that worked during COVID.

Currently the surrounding areas have become a wonderful place to live and grow. The families and people in this area have contributed to this beautiful community in numerous ways, such as volunteering, local gatherings and creating a genuinely safe and healthy place to reside. How quickly that would change if we were suddenly subject to significant amounts of nasty pollution from Coal or fossil fuels, or the never-ending drone of a data center? Properties would go vacant, fewer and fewer people would want to live here, school systems would deteriorate and as a result the tax revenue the townships receive would plummet. Afterall, isn't that the primary motivation to want a data center in your community or to use cheap and dirty fuel source like Coal? Tax revenue? Imagine, if you will, driving around town and once again and seeing these vacant houses, dilapidated buildings and run down parks...would the data center or cheap fuel be worth it then?

All this is to say that if we need more power, I am certainly not against the idea of power generation (as this is what I do for a living) but we have newer and better ways to accomplish these goals. If the site were to be used for wind, solar, or SMRs, the community would be much more willing to accept those alternatives.

We are moving rapidly toward a future that will require bigger and brighter solutions. This future we are trying to build will require great leadership, it will require great vision and new ideas...and to simply resort to anachronistic methods such as burning fossil fuels or detrimental solutions such as a data center would only serve to bring the area back to a time when living here was not so wonderful. Instead of succumbing to the cheap promises of big business which never materialize, or condemning a community for a quick buck, we ought to be investing in the people in whose hands the future truly belongs.

Respectfully,

James McCann

Northridge Village Resident