

If the purpose of government is to serve it's citizens, then the many levels of government involved in approving the building of the fuel cell in Glastonbury failed in their duties.

The CT Siting Council approved the construction of a power plant in a residential neighborhood without so much as requiring, let alone looking at, a detailed map of the location of the site or engineer drawings of the proposed fuel cell. As a result, no one besides UIL and Fuel Cell Energy had any idea of the scale and scope of the project that was blindly approved.

Because the CT Siting Council approved the fuel cell with inadequate details and with no requirement for oversight, it was not aware that the fuel cell was being built in an entirely different spot than it was approved to be. A hasty, retroactive approval of the location change by the Siting Council paved the way for the unsightly monstrosity to be completed with utter disregard for the residents who live in the area and with no penalties for UIL or Fuel Cell Energy.

Members of the Glastonbury Town Council must be held responsible for their failure to fully investigate the matter when they were notified that the CT Siting Council was considering the construction of a fuel cell in town. However, even if they had tried to get more information, it is unlikely that they would have been successful because the Siting Council did not require details from UIL when they granted approval.

While nothing can be done at this point to correct the many wrongs that led to the construction of the fuel cell, much must be done to make sure such a failure of government oversight does not happen again. Before approving any future projects, the CT Siting Council must require and study detailed maps, drawings and plans, and share them with the leadership of the towns in which the projects are being considered. Residents who will be affected by any project being considered by the Siting Council must be notified of the complete scale and scope of the project under consideration and given an opportunity to have their concerns addressed. Failure to make changes to the current approval process is a failure by the government to serve the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully,
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