

Plant could bring health risks

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I write in response to "Energy plant deserves support" (The Sun, Nov. 13) by Mr. Joseph Fitzpatrick. As noted in a disclaimer at the end of the column, Mr. Fitzpatrick is CEO of DG Clean Power, a partner in the project with the Montgomery Energy Billerica Energy Powers. Forgive me if I am skeptical of Mr. Fitzpatrick's claims about the proposed power plant's impact on the environment as he is intimately involved with the project and stands to benefit from its implementation regardless of the truth of the environmental impact on Billerica and the Merrimack Valley.

Reports I have read counter to Mr. Fitzpatrick's assertions note that the proposed plant will dump 428,777 tons of CO₂ emissions into the air in addition to 41 tons of particulates, 44 tons of nitrogen oxide (according to the EPA, "the main ingredients involved in the formation of ground-level ozone"), 13 tons of volatile organic compounds (again, according to the EPA, "volatile organic compounds" are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.)

The plant will displace 180,000 gallons a day from the Concord River and it will need 720,000 gallons a day. This water will be used for pollution control and will not be returned to the river.

It seems to me that Mr. Fitzpatrick is saying the power plant is a good thing as it will only put so much poop in our beds, but really, I'd rather sleep with no poop in my bed. I only have one bed.

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