

April 2, 2014

Dear Trustee,

I am very proud of the education that I received at UD. I don't know how many alumni hold 4 degrees from UD, but I do. I have committed much of my adult life to scholarship at UD and I feel as though this is one of the more important decisions that I have made. This makes the power plant on the STAR Campus especially hurtful. How could my University, where I learned the standards of scholarship, how to practice academic rigor and to conduct myself with respect for others, place my home, my family and my community at risk? How could my University, where I learned the value of peer review in scholarship and in the evaluation of externalities in conducting life-cycle analysis circumvent the peer review process and any modicum of transparency before inviting the power plant to our campus?

I have devoted the past 10 months to researching the power plant issue and I strongly feel that it is just too close to us. It would be less than a mile from my home and approximately 2000 feet from the house where I grew up, and where my dad still lives. It would be 500 feet from my childhood playground and 1500 feet from my bus stop. There are families, schools and parks that are just too close to this power plant.

The Delaware Department of Education publishes information about school attendance as recently as the 2012-2013 academic year. This shows that over nine thousand students from preschool to 12th grade attend school within 3 miles of where the power plant would be built. The closest schools to the power plant have children in the elementary grades. The lungs and bodies of these children have not even finished developing. Will they be breathing polluted air coming from UD campus?

Public Schools within 3 miles of the power plant

School Name	School Type	Grades	Student Enrollment (2012-2013)	Distance to power plant (miles)
Newark Charter	CHARTER	K-8	1347	0.32
West Park Elementary	ELEMENTARY	K-5	373	0.57
McVey Elementary	ELEMENTARY	Pk-5	432	0.90
Downes Elementary	ELEMENTARY	K-6	458	1.41
Newark High	HIGH	8-12	1530	1.74
Brookside Elementary	ELEMENTARY	K-5	339	2.04
Glasgow High	HIGH	8-12	981	2.41
Gauger-Cobbs	MIDDLE	6-8	1170	2.45
Brader	ELEMENTARY	Pk-5	526	2.47
Kirk	MIDDLE	6-8	782	2.95
Brennen	SPECIAL	Pk-12	375	2.95
Maclary	ELEMENTARY	Pk-5	409	2.98
Smith	ELEMENTARY	K-5	560	2.99
TOTAL			9282	

The power plant is not just too close to schools, it is also too close to campus. Most of Main Campus, The Green, Old College and the athletic complex are within 1.5 miles of the power plant. All of the dormitories and most of the off-campus student housing are within 2 miles of the power plant. Will thousands of students sleep, study, attend classes, go on dates and exercise within a close proximity to the power plant? How will their health be impacted? Will it cause permanent damage to their bodies?

I am worried about the impact that the power plant will have on our property values. Using national statistics for the impact of power plants on property values, construction of a natural gas power plant could harm the resale value of my home. Will my decision to buy a home in a University town cause my investment to suffer?

For the life of me I cannot comprehend why UD would put the health our community at risk like this. Air pollution is a big concern. When I was a kid my dad had an illness that took a large portion of one of his lungs. Now I have to worry about a new source of air pollution, including pollutants that trigger respiratory illness, so close to where he lives.

Almost 2 weeks ago there was a Board of Adjustment hearing in Newark about the zoning for the power plant. Approximately 700 union laborers, boiler makers and electricians attended the hearing and displaced many Newark residents who were not even able to get inside. While many of these union men were well behaved, some had been drinking and smelled of alcohol. Some threatened physical violence to a local politician. Many acted in a manner that was intimidating. These are the people that The Data Centers LLC will invite into our community to build their power plant. They are the same people who will be drinking at bars frequented by students and walking the streets. I now worry for the safety of the young women who attend UD. In years past Newark used to have a rough reputation and Main Street was unsafe to walk at night. I used to carry pepper spray in my pocket with my finger on the button. My husband's ex-wife was raped on Main Street in the 1980s. We have undergone a revitalization of our Main Street and the streets are, for the most part, safe. Are we about to return to those days when I had to fear to walk through my neighborhood after dark?

It is my understanding that UD has established a working group that will evaluate the power plant. Will the working group evaluate its impact on our health? Will it evaluate how the power plant will impact our property values? Will it evaluate how the construction workers will interact with students in our community? Will it look at the long-term effects on our small town and the possibility for degradation of our quality of life? Since the composition of the working group is limited to just a few academic disciplines and some administrators, many of these questions will likely remain unanswered under the current working group structure.

I have tried to understand the role that the University has played in the negotiations to bring the power plant to UD Campus. I have tried to access the lease using the Freedom of Information Act and my requests have been denied. I have learned, however, that 1743 Holdings is fully accountable to the University of Delaware, and that the decisions on property by the University of Delaware are fully accountable to the Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, I ask that you help our community to access the information that we need to understand how the University and the power plant are connected, and that you conduct your own evaluation of the power plant. I have ideas about a more appropriate research design that could consider the social, economic and environmental implications of the power plant. The University at the very least should utilize the same standards for research design, peer review and academic rigor in evaluating this project as it requires of its faculty and students. I would be interested in discussing this with you further in the future.

Respectfully,



Amy Roe, Ph.D.

Alumna 1996, 1999, 2005, 2012

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