

OLD BUSINESS

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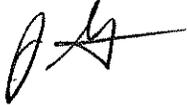


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To: Marsha Brunelle, Chairperson, Board of Selectmen
Charles Cristello, Town Manager

From: John P. Granahan, Jr. 
General Manager

Subject: Moratorium Legislation on the Development of Fossil Fuel Electric
Generating Facilities

Date: May 11, 2010

You have asked me to provide input on a proposed act imposing a moratorium on the development of fossil fuel electric generating facilities. After reviewing the document, the Middleborough Gas & Electric Department (MGED) and the Board of Gas & Electric Commissioners would not support this language.

MGED supports the development of renewable generation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a growing part of our portfolio of resources. We are pursuing opportunities to add renewable resources to MGED's energy mix, and must balance the intermittency of these resources with more manageable generation from dispatch-ready units. In addition, we support increased conservation and efficiency to reduce peak demand.

The regional planner – ISO-New England and MGED share two key drivers in managing supply planning: cost and reliability, and fossil fuel plants, particularly newer natural gas-fired generation, are an important resource in the Northeast. Based on Department of Energy statistics, the US has an ample supply of domestic natural gas, and carbon emissions are 45% lower than those from coal-fired generation and 30% lower than oil-fired generation. Technology improvements have increased efficiency and we and the environment benefit when older plants are retired in favor of newer units.