

STOP THE POWER



“ADVOCACY FOR THE IMPOVERISHED, VOICELESS AND INNOCENT OF BROCKTON”

David W. Cash
DEP Commissioner
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

I want to thank you again for meeting with our group of advocates earlier this year and for your concern and continued compassion for the residents of Brockton. Since installation the PM 2.5 and now the Ozone readings have been extremely helpful and very eye opening.

At hand is our sewage and water treatment facility in Brockton. In a previous meeting with our group, Energy Secretary Richard Sullivan mentioned removal by truck via pellet form being a safer and more modern technique that Brockton could implement. He cited his town of Westfield as the prime example.

Stonehill College, a rapidly expanding institution adding buildings and capacity in Easton is hooked up to the Brockton sewage system. They have enjoyed favorable sewage rates for the past 20 years despite not being a Brockton taxpayer. We are concerned that our local officials are closing in on another lopsided arrangement in which Stonehill will enjoy a further discount to burn their sewage for years to come over the heads of the residents of Brockton. This arrangement will continue to put additional stress on an already overburdened and outdated system.

It our hope that Stonehill College can instead act in cooperation and collaboration with Brockton, the DEP and our State Representatives to help us work towards a safer, cleaner alternative. After all, Stonehill College is our neighbor.

The recent Brockton water treatment upgrade has been touted in the media recently but it is our understanding that this upgrade has little to do with the incinerators ability or capacity of burning additional flow of sewage sludge. Hazardous chemicals are being added to our solid waste solely to allow the burning of additional volume in our 30-year-old incinerator, which in turn is adding additional, unnecessary pollutants to our community. Environmental and Economic Justice exists in Brockton and because of this we are asking that you step in and assess the environmental impacts of incineration on our community.

We believe that ending incineration will improve the health and well being of our residents and create long-term capital gains for the City of Brockton. We are asking that the DEP and the State Legislator use their influence to intervene, remediate and mitigate our sewage management. Let's commit to closing our incinerator and removing our waste in pellet form so that the best interests of our residents, the children in our schools and the thousands of elderly that live in Brockton are protected. The byproduct of this outdated practice is additional pollution on our community that we can ill afford.

Sincerely,

Stop The Power

Cc: State Representatives, Michael Brady, Claire Cronin, and Christine Canavan
Nancy Seidman, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Waste Prevention
Glenn Keith, Deputy Director of Planning

"We have forgotten and are still forgetting that over and above business, logic and the parameters of the market is the human being; and that something is men and women in as much as they are human beings by virtue of their profound dignity: to offer them the possibility of living a dignified life and of actively participating in the common good.

- Pope Francis, Address to the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation, 5/25/13