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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Boston, MA** – At the request of Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr., residents from Brockton, advocates from Stop The Power and Senior Attorney Staci Rubin from Alternatives for Community & Environment met at the Massachusetts State House at 2PM on Monday, March 31, 2014 with the newly appointed Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner David Cash, Assistant DEP Commissioner, Nancy Seidman, Deputy Director of Planning Glenn Keith, and Bethany Riportella, Legislative Liason.

State Representative Michael Brady and staff from the offices of Representative Claire Cronin, and Senator Tom Kennedy's office were also in attendance.

As a result of the meeting the DEP announced that Brockton would receive an additional level of testing because of the many sources of pollution in the city. Ozone-1 testing (which is a colorless unstable toxic gas that is a major public health concern at ground level) will go live as soon as possible at the current PM2.5 monitoring station at the Gilmore School. This real time data can be viewed online at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/air/quality/>

Commissioner David Cash and his team were very attentive and concerned with the issues that plague the city of Brockton.

Commissioner Cash also said that the DEP will move swiftly to take a much closer look at the Brockton Wastewater Treatment plant, one of the few sewage sludge incinerators remaining in Massachusetts. The DEP will explore safer methods to handle sewage sludge besides incineration. Further they announced that they would explore when the sludge is burned because of several complaints that had been logged by Representative Brady.

The DEP is also planning to look at what penalties have been assessed by the Thatcher Street Landfill, as it is another major concern of residents.

Air pollution monitoring is critical data that is necessary to protect the future of Brockton, to ensure the safety and protection of residents and to address the problems that Brockton currently deals with. In closing State Representative Michael Brady made it clear to the DEP that an undisputed majority of his constituents, the residents of Brockton and all 11 Brockton City Councilors are against the proposed power plant in the city. Representative Brady also reaffirmed his belief in the importance of this testing because of the issues that currently plague Brockton.

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