

# West Bridgewater

## Times

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### Power play still at play

#### Officials against proposed power plant

By Paula M. Donnelly  
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Selectmen have begun the process of contacting state and

Brockton officials to voice their opposition to a 350-megawatt power plant proposed for Oak Hill Way, near the West Bridgewater line.

Selectman Matthew Albanese said the board recently sent a letter to Brockton Mayor James E. Harrington and the City Council outlining the town's stance against the plant.

Albanese said town officials oppose the plant's site because of how close it is to West Bridgewater and to two senior citizen communities that are located near Oak Hill Way.

"I would have to say I am against it because of the health reasons," said Daniel Cronin, a resident of one of the senior communities. "I am against anything

the town is against."

Cronin said he was unsure of what kind of benefits residents of West Bridgewater would see, even though the plant could impact them severely.

"I think what is important here is to make sure people know that this isn't the town of West

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Bridgewater against the city of Brockton," said Selectman Jerry Lawrence. "Anything that helps make the City of Champions a better place to live for their residents is great, but not at the cost of West Bridgewater residents."

"This will give us a better chance to present our case to the city of Brockton and the concerns we have for the proposed power

plant," Albanese said. "Our concern is the House leadership appears to have a lack of interest or concern to what is happening to the residents of West Bridgewater and Brockton."

"This board hopes that Gov. Deval Patrick would take a more aggressive stance in working with both municipalities and the residents that live within them by opposing .... this facility," Albanese added.

The plant is proposed by Swiss company Advanced Power to be built on Oak Hill Way, near the West Bridgewater line.

Representatives of the power plant are hoping to have state approval by the end of the year.

While a number of meetings have been held at the Davis Elementary School in Brockton, Selectman Eldon Moreira said the town is still in the dark about what the plant will mean for West Bridgewater residents.

"If they put the plant in, they are going to have to beef up the electrical lines," Moreira said. "We still don't know what this is going

to mean as far as the health of our individuals and the environment when they burn the diesel fuel."

"Our water supply is one of the main, main reasons we don't want the pollution," he added.

Lawrence said the plant could also affect the wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands of the Hockomock Swamp.

"With the assistance of town counsel, I am sure that the town will continue its battle against the power plant," said Lawrence. "This just isn't good for the entire region."

The project has drawn criticism from many Brockton residents and officials. Concerns include its size — it would have a 250-foot-tall stack — along with its possible health effects and its location near homes and businesses.

The company says the plant would be cleaner and more efficient than many existing plants because it would mostly be powered by natural gas. Because of the efficiency, it would also be a cheaper energy source, according to spokespersons for the plant.