

13th Congress of the Republic)
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SENATE
S. Res. No. 333

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE TRUST INTERNATIONAL PAPER CORPORATION (TIPCO) COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN BARANGAY BUNDAGUL, MABALACAT, PAMPANGA

Whereas, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;"

Whereas, Section 4(e) of Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Clean Air Act, recognizes "the right of every citizen to be informed of the nature and extent of the potential hazard of any activity, undertaking or project, and to be served timely notice of any significant rise in the level of pollution and the accidental or deliberate release into the atmosphere of harmful or hazardous substances;"

Whereas, on 03 September 2002, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued an Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) to Trust International Paper Corporation (TIPCO) for the operation of a 50 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Barangay Bundagul, Mabalacat, Pampanga, without public consultation;

Whereas, coal-fired power plants have been found worldwide to be hazardous to the environment and to people on a 600 mile radius;

Whereas, such coal-fired power plant poses great health hazards to the surrounding communities, as the residents are exposed to harmful substances;

Whereas, the nearest residential settlement in Barangay Bundagul is 500 meters away from the Tipco coal-fired power plant, with an estimated population of 45,000 people who are exposed to the ill effects of arsenic, mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide and chromium;

Whereas, studies have shown that exposure to 0.002 pound of mercury is sufficient to poison 25 hectares of lakewater and all species found therein;

Whereas, the operation of a coal-fired power plant causes environmental hazards to the ecosystem, such as acidification, difficulty in locating potable groundwater sources and decreased agricultural production;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the deleterious effects of the proposed construction and operation of the Trust International Paper (Tipco) Coal-Fired Power Plant in Barangay Bundagul, Mabalacat Pampanga.

Adopted,


AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.