

Atlantic City opposes proposed PurGen coal plant in Linden

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Environmental groups lobbied panel

The Atlantic City council Wednesday passed a resolution opposing the proposed PurGen coal plant, a proposal that included a plan that included pumping pressurized CO₂ waste off the city's coast.

The council's action is being praised by the Sierra Club and Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE), two organizations that supported the resolution.

CURE member, Michael Diamond, was instrumental in getting the resolution on the council's agenda. Atlantic City is the first municipality to pass a resolution opposing the PurGen coal plant.

"The Sierra Club applauds the Atlantic City resolution in standing up for the environment," Jeff Tittel, the organization's director, said. The Atlantic City council understands the importance of protecting our oceans from chemical waste."

"We are thrilled that Atlantic City has taken this position. CURE members will be contacting our municipalities and councils to get this resolution passed around the state," Bettie Reina of CURE said. "This is just the beginning of the fight."

The \$5 billion PurGen project was proposed by the Massachusetts company, SCS Energy. The coal plant which would also produce 25 percent of the nation's nitrogen fertilizer would be located in Linden. PurGen would use an experimental technology called carbon sequestration to pump pressurized CO₂ pollution through a 138-mile pipeline down the New Jersey coast. The waste would then be injected into the sea bed off the coast of Atlantic City.

"Atlantic City did the right thing for its citizens and the environment," Georgina Shanley of CURE said. "The Council drew a line in the sand, enough is enough."

Also on the council agenda was Atlantic City's agreement to install a wind resource monitoring station on Duck Island. The city already has 5 onshore wind turbines which provide 7.5 megawatts of energy.

"Atlantic City is on the forefront of wind energy in New Jersey and the nation," Christine Guhl, the Sierra Club organizer, said. "The council's resolution against PurGen is another example of the city's trailblazing efforts to support clean energy."

— *TOM HESTER SR., NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM*