

February 18, 2018

New Orleans City Council
Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee
UCTTC Chair Jason Williams
City Hall, Room 2W50
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112



RE: Opposition to the New Orleans Power Station Proposal

Good morning, Councilmember Williams,

The Mid-City Neighborhood Organization (MCNO) would like to go on record in opposition to the proposed New Orleans Power Station in New Orleans East. While this issue has been discussed and reported on as mainly a neighborhood quality of life issue affecting only New Orleans East, the impact of approving this project will affect every Entergy rate payer in Orleans Parish as residents and families will accept the burden of higher bills to pay for this power station. Our opposition is founded in the unjustified higher cost of living for residents of Mid-City, an existing lack of demonstrated need for this power plant, and the environmental concerns made plain by the July 22 and August 5 flooding in our neighborhood.

Residents are already paying high power bills, with an unacceptable number of power outages, while footing the bill for additional fees (such as the Storm Restoration Charges). New Orleans rate payers do not have another option to choose when it comes to electricity delivery, and the only recourse residents have is for our elected officials to hold the company to the highest possible standards. The New Orleans City Council is a final arbiter of whether Entergy will require rate payers to cover the costs of the power plant. MCNO is concerned that very few New Orleanians are aware of the issues being discussed, and how it will impact them and their monthly bills. While engaged citizens participate with MCNO, and we have been invited to informational sessions on the impacts of the proposed power plant, the sessions were too few, too difficult to attend, and outreach has been decidedly lacking.

MCNO officially urges you to slow this process, ensure New Orleans voters are well informed of the impact of this decision to their power bills, cost of living, and quality of life, or that you oppose the proposal outright.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Leitzinger', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily Leitzinger
President, Mid-City Neighborhood Organization