

From: South Bronx Unite <info@southbronxunite.org>
To: Cedric Loftin <brxcb1@optonline.net>
Date: Mar 5, 2022 1:17:59 PM
Subject: Tomorrow: Demand Shutdown of Polluting Power Plants in the South Bronx

The background of the main text area is a photograph of an industrial facility, likely a power plant. It features several tall, cylindrical smokestacks and large, horizontal storage tanks. The scene is set against a hazy, overcast sky, and the entire image has a yellowish tint.

South Bronx Residents Demand Shutdown of Polluting Power Plants

P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E
S U N D A Y , M A R C H 6 , 1 2 P M

W H O

South Bronx Unite, WE ACT, Assemblymember
Amanda Septimo, Mott Haven-Port Morris Community
Land Stewards, The Point CDC, Mothers on the
Move, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

W H E R E

951 East 132nd St., Bronx
10454. In front of two peak
power plants.

Enough is Enough

The Mott Haven and Port Morris sections of the South Bronx are NYC's epicenter for environmental pollution, including from 4 peak power plants operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). The toxic air in the area has resulted in asthma hospitalization rates 8 times higher than the national average. It is projected that there will be enough renewable energy to replace 15 of NYC's 16 peaker plants by 2026. Yet, NYPA has made no commitment to shutter these plants as soon as adequate renewable energy becomes available. Instead, it is not planning to decommission its South Bronx peakers before 2035. Our community cannot afford NYPA's delay and we are demanding that it commits to a timeline that places value on our lives and health.

Join us this Sunday to demand equity and justice for the South Bronx!

"The South Bronx was told 21 years ago that siting these fossil fuel power plants in asthma alley would be temporary and didn't need a full environmental assessment. Enough is enough. COVID's disproportionate impact in communities like ours has been directly linked to poor air quality. How many more lives do we have to lose before NYPA and DEC recognize the environmental injustice?" - **Mychal Johnson, Co-founder of South Bronx Unite**

"Plagued by decades of air pollution from hazardous development, the South Bronx suffers rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases that are over twice as high as the citywide level. The continued presence of peaker plants, which lie inactive for most of the year, further exacerbate these risks by emitting over twice the carbon dioxide per unit of electricity and nearly 20 times the level of nitrogen oxide than standard power plants. A few short hours of operating peaker plants can greatly compromise the quality of the air we breathe and endanger Bronx residents for a lifetime. It is long past time for the State to fully address this manifestation of environmental racism in our community and promptly remove the remaining peakers in New York City." - **Congressman Ritchie Torres, NY-15**

"Recently, I joined my colleagues in the legislature, South Bronx Unite, and 12 other community-based organizations, in calling on Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Public Service Commission, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to recommend that New York Power Authority (NYPA)'s peaker plants be retired as soon as possible. Generations of South Bronxites have shouldered a massive environmental burden. For that reason, I am thrilled at the prospect of new renewable energy infrastructure bringing cleaner power to the South Bronx. That said, we know that the new Tier 4 transmission lines can produce enough renewable energy to the downstate grid to take South Bronx peaker plants offline sooner than their proposed timeline. Each additional year of avoidable pollution has a life-long impact on babies born during that time. NYPA must consider its host community in the transition, minimize harm, and promptly retire its South Bronx peaker plants." - **NY State Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo**

"The peaker plants in the South Bronx have sickened generations of Bronxites, aggravating asthma and hospitalization rates in our community. We cannot allow them to endanger future generations. I proudly stand with South Bronx Unite and communities impacted by environmental injustice to hold polluters accountable and finally shutter the peakers." - **NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera**

"When a county is based 62 out of 62 New York State counties in health outcomes, it is way past time to make Bronx air quality part of the State's climate justice commitment. Bronx Council for Environment Quality supports and is proud to join all efforts to schedule peaker plant closures in the South Bronx before Clean Plath NY and Champlain Hudson Power Express gain final contract approval for renewable energy projects in New York City. Letting market forces dictate the pace of peaker plant closures is not the path to

environmental justice or to our much-needed shift to renewable energy sources.” - **Dr. Robert Fanuzzi, President of Bronx Council for Environmental Quality**

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