

Petition Campaign Against the CONSTRUCTION OF COAL PLANT IN SUBIC BAY

August 2011



WE, the undersigned Individuals, Multi-sectoral Organizations, Church People, Business Groups, and Enlightened Government Officials, join the mounting clamor to stop the planned construction of a 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Sitio Naglatore, Barangay Cawag in Subic, Zambales. The project's serious risks to the environment and the people's health and livelihood far outweigh its purported benefits for the community and the people.

The anti-people project, which is being pushed by a consortium composed of power distributors *Manila Electric Co., Aboitiz Power Corp. and Taiwan Cogeneration Corp.*, runs counter to the aspirations of the people of Zambales and Olongapo City for alternative sources of energy that are environmentally viable. It goes against the people's demand to keep Greater *Subic Bay Freeport Zone* free from pollutants and other harmful substances which the coal-fired power plant will produce.

Coal is an outdated technology that is destructive from cradle to grave. From destructive mining practices like strip mining and mountaintop removal to the mercury and greenhouse gases that wreck havoc on our local and global environment – coal is inherently destructive to our communities and climate.

Constructing a coal-fired power plant in Subic Bay poses a multitude of clear threats to the environment, health, local economy and the resident's well-being in general. The coal plant also poses risks to farm animals which may ingest harmful particles emitted by the power plant. Vegetation in the vicinity will also be affected, and consequently, the livelihood of thousands of Zambales residents who are dependent on farming, fishing and poultry. In the long run, the local food supply can potentially be disrupted.

Potential mercury contamination of Subic's precious bay is a serious risk that policymakers must carefully consider. The bay's pollution will also deal a heavy blow to tourism, one of Subic's most prized industries today.

OUR CALL: NO TO COAL PLANT IN SUBIC BAY!

Northern Zambales was already a victim of the 600MW Masinloc Coal-Fired Power Plant. Acid rain badly affected mango production – the province' banner product. Fish and other marine lives in Oyon Bay near the coal plant were driven away by noise and warmer seawater destroying the livelihood of municipal fisherfolk. With another 600 MW coal plant now proposed in southern Zambales, the repeat of the Masinloc experience must be prevented at all cost.

Indeed, constructing a coal-fired power plant in Subic poses uncontrolled pollution that will drive away tourists and investors, altogether, leaving the local pollution not only with an economic debacle to repair but possibly with untold environmental disaster to clean up. These environmental and social costs are irreversible and will definitely plague the generations to come.

People's aspiration for sustainable and environment friendly alternative to generate energy including *wind, geothermal, hydrokenetics, bio-energy, solar power*, among others should be fully considered and prioritize.

IT IS IN THIS LIGHT THAT WE, petitioners vehemently oppose the construction of a coal-fired thermal power plant at Sitio Naglatore, Brgy. Cawag, Subic, Zambales, Philippines.

