



City Of Rockland

March 15th, 2016

To: **Midcoast Media**
Courier Publications, VStv
Free Press, PenBay Pilot, WSCH 6

Re: Public Forum: Grid Scale & Distributed Power Generation
Discussion Of Major Provisions In Concept Power Generation Ordinance
6:30 PM Thursday March 24th
Council Chambers At Rockland City Hall

In an ever changing energy market that now includes energy sources like solar, biomass, natural gas, biogas and fuel cell technology, what types of power generation facilities does a municipality need to consider when drafting local ordinances? Depending on the type of power generation facility proposed, how should the City regulate key considerations like water usage, noise, local air emissions and safety? How can the potential benefits and costs of local electrical power generation (i.e., generating power at or near the location where the power would be used) for a business or for a homeowner or for the community be weighed?

In January Rockland's City Council enacted a moratorium on the construction of new power generation facilities larger than 10 megawatts in size. The Council also directed the Planning Board, with assistance from the Energy Committee, to develop ordinance amendments governing power generation for the City Council to consider. The Planning Board will likely complete a draft ordinance for Council consideration by the end of March.

Three well attended public forums in 2015 identified a number of topics that warranted careful consideration. The Planning Board, with support from the Energy Committee, the City Attorney, plus engineers from Woodard and Curran as well as SMRT, has been carefully reviewing the City's existing ordinances and developing new provisions. Before finalizing recommendations to the City Council, the Planning Board asked the Energy Committee to facilitate a public forum covering the primary aspects of the Concept Power Generation Ordinance.

The March 24th forum will begin with an overview by Woodard & Curran engineer Dan Kelley of the various types of power generation technologies that could be covered by a proposed ordinance. The forum will then move through the primary areas in the proposed ordinance revisions: (1) water usage; (2) noise; (3) cooling towers; (4) local air emissions; (5) safety; as well as (6) setbacks and buffers. Rockland City Attorney Kevin Beal will also summarize key provisions of the draft ordinance. Time will be allotted for discussion between each topic.

All who are interested in local energy questions are encouraged to attend. The public forum will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday evening March 24th in City Council Chambers.

Press Contacts:

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