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Sharon DeMeo, EPA:

As a resident of Sandwich, on Cape Cod, we are paying the highest electric rates in the continental US due to the inefficiency of the Mirant Power Plant. I have walked by there almost every day for 7 years with the colored smoke spewing from the tower. I was also diagnosed with bone marrow cancer 3 years ago. Many residents in the area have health problems from unexplained cancers to respiratory diseases and lung cancers, according to Dr. Anna Manatis of Sandwich. Over the years it has released carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury into the atmosphere---- unhealthy for walkers, runners and breathers.

Since Mirant had to negotiate with the town of Sandwich to pay back taxes; I am sure they won't be able to afford the two new cooling towers, costing between \$182 million and \$217 million. It's time to close this plant down, and the spot would make a wonderful recreation area if the Army Corps of Engineers purchased this for its use. A large aquarium would be better served there than the plant which is now sucking up 518 million gallons of water each day from the canal along with millions of organisms including fish eggs and larvae that are killed in the process. I have also seen birds caught in the intake pools there. The air is noxious on many days with a chemical "perfume" put into the air to mask the odor of the oil, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. It is time for this "dinosaur" to be laid to rest. **We would like to see it closed as soon as possible, we can't afford to subsidize this agency on our electric bills!!** The town of Sandwich will have to deal with the tax loss.