



An Update from County Judge Frank Malinak on the Proposed Power Plant

October 09, 2024

On August 22, 2024, Sandow Lakes Ranch made application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a Siemens natural gas power plant near Blue. Subsequently, myself and Lee County Commissioner Alan Turner toured a similar dual turbine Siemens power plant outside Temple, Texas to gain insight on power plant operations and gauge what effect this plant might have on Lee County and the Blue Community.

We know our citizens don't want a power plant in their midst. I wouldn't either, but commissioners' court does not have the authority to stop it. We have questioned SLR about the location and suggested it be moved deeper into their own property to shield our residents from negative effects. My investigative actions have apparently led some to incorrectly conclude I am supporting the power plant over our citizens.

We understand that our citizens feel like they are in the dark. That is where TCEQ comes into play. Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Representative Stan Gerdes have requested TCEQ conduct a full public hearing in Lexington in the near future. We will be there to ask questions of SLR and TCEQ about EPA pollution standards and about hazards the power plant may pose. I hope our citizens attend. Any resolution against the plant would certainly benefit from information derived from the TCEQ public hearing.

Growth is coming and we can't stop it. We share the concerns of our citizens impacted by this changing landscape. The county's only avenue is to lobby for more authority, hold regulatory agencies accountable for doing their job, and push for developers to employ good stewardship to mitigate negative impacts, while encouraging sound and sustainable economic development for future generations.

As your County Judge, I will continue to represent all persons on issues affecting the county. I would appreciate your support on our judicious handling of this matter.