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For Immediate Release

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## **‘Move the Gas Plant’ Urges Lee Countians To Attend Public Meeting and Oppose Gas Plant**

LEXINGTON, TEXAS – Last week, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) issued a public notice regarding plans by Sandow Lakes Energy (SLE) to build a massive 1,200-megawatt natural gas power plant in the Blue area.

The TCEQ also scheduled a public meeting in Lexington about the proposed power plant. At that meeting, the TCEQ and SLE will make presentations and accept questions and comments.

The public meeting will be at 7 p.m., April 24 at the American Legion Hall Post 6, 304 S. Rockdale St.

The TCEQ’s public notice stated that its technical review of the company’s application for an air emissions permit was complete, and a draft permit has been prepared.

“We urge residents of Lee County to attend this public meeting and tell the TCEQ they are opposed to SLE building its power plant in the Blue community,” Brown said. “We also ask everyone to submitting written comments to the TCEQ. That’s easy and you can do that online.”

The deadline for submitting written comments is the date of the meeting, April 24.

Move the Gas Plant is providing instructions and suggestions for comments on the “News” page of its Website: [www.movethegasplant.org](http://www.movethegasplant.org)

Brown said individuals can also go directly to the TCEQ webpage for submitting comments:

<https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>

This page also tells you how to submit your comments via mail or fax.

Brown said commenters should include one of the following permit numbers in their comments : 177380, PSDTX1650 or GHGPSDTX244. He said the official name SLE is using for its permit application is SL Energy Power Plant I.

The location for the proposed gas plant is on a piece of Sandow Lakes Ranch property located at the intersection of CR 309 and CR 312, just west of the Adina Christian Church.

“We recommend commenters both at the meeting and in writing tell the TCEQ they are opposed to the gas plant in part because air pollution may harm the health of rural Lee County residents,” Brown said. “If you live in the Blue/Adina area, you might also include any personal health problems you and your family have that might be worsened by air emissions from the gas plant.”

Brown said commenters could also express concerns about the impact of air emissions on their livestock, pets, wildlife, soils, vegetation, or visibility, and their ability to enjoy the benefits of living and working on your property.

He said commenters could also cite other negative impacts of the proposed gas plant, such as increased noise, lights and traffic; groundwater and surface water impacts; and decrease in property values.

Brown said the TCEQ must respond to every comment it receives.

The TCEQ’s published public notice stated that it has made a “preliminary

determination” that air emissions from the gas plant “will not violate any state or federal air quality regulations.”

“Such a determination certainly does not alleviate any of our concerns about the proposed gas plant’s impact on human health, especially for those living nearby,” Brown said. “And such a determination does not mean this is a done deal.”

Brown said the TCEQ executive director still must make a final approval for the air permit, as do the three TCEQ commissioners.

“Sandow Lakes Energy still has many hoops to jump through before it can build this gas plant,” Brown said.

He said Move the Gas Plant has retained an Austin law firm and has launched a legal challenge to SLE. The law firm has requested a “contested case hearing” be conducted over the proposed air permits.

“In this hearing, we will be making a strong case for why SLE’s permit application should be rejected,” Brown said. “We are under no illusions about the difficulty of beating permits at the TCEQ.”

But Brown said there are examples of other companies that decided to move their proposed gas plants to other areas after local communities mounted opposition, just as Move the Gas Plant is doing.

“Some people in the county have expressed support for the gas plant, citing the new property tax dollars the county would receive,” Brown said.

He said a resolution passed In February by the commissioner’s court essentially supports the Move the Gas Plant position.

“We believe this gas plant does not belong in the Blue area, but can and should be moved to a more isolated site within the sprawling Sandow Lakes Ranch, farther away from so many residences,” Brown said.

At that February court meeting, Judge Frank Malinak and others with the county expressed skepticism that the county would ever receive significant amounts of

tax dollars from the gas plant, Brown said.

Some in favor of the gas plant also have cited the need for new sources of electricity for Lee County residents, Brown said.

“But it’s very likely that most, if not all, of the electricity from this plant would not go onto the state power grid,” he said. “Instead that electricity likely will go to the large Bitcoin mining operations at Sandow Lakes Ranch and to other industrial facilities likely to be built there.”

Brown said Texas is in the process of loaning up to \$10 billion for 17 other new natural gas power plants to be built in the state.

Brown said Move the Gas Plant thanks Rep. Stan Gerdes and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst for agreeing last fall to our request that they ask the TCEQ to hold a public meeting.

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