

MTGP Year-End Update, 2025

(Editor's Note: This update was mailed in December 2025 only to our email subscribers. It was picked up in a front-page article, "MTGP sets new direction in effort to preserve Blue", in the December 18 issue of the Giddings Times & News. The paper labeled the email as a "media release" and included additional information not contained in our email.)

December 9, 2025

Dear Friends of the Blue Community,

Move the Gas Plant appreciates your support for your neighbors in Blue whose lives have been forever changed by a single private, for-profit enterprise.

Sadow Lakes Ranch recently broke ground on construction of its 1,200 megawatt (MW) gas-fired power plant at the corner of CR 309 and CR 312 in the heart of Blue.

Our local and state representatives have thrown in with Sadow Lakes Ranch (SLR), and its offshoot Sadow Lakes Energy (SLE), as part of the "growth for the greater good" mentality that Texas has adopted.

Our county officials think SLR's development plans for 33,000+ acres in Milam and Lee counties, with the power plant as its so-called cornerstone, will "change our world for the better". (The Lexington Leader and Giddings Times quoted Judge Malinak to that effect in their recent issues.)

That prediction remains unproven. We simply think it's not too much to ask for SLR to avoid ruining a long-standing community of rural Texans when there are other, more suitable and less inhabited sites for industrial proliferation within all that acreage.

It's worth remembering that even though SLE obtained its air permit and has begun construction, obstacles remain that could delay completion of this project for many years or even kill it. Those factors include an uncertain future economy, the unpredictability of natural gas prices and the difficulty in getting necessary equipment and manpower to build and operate the plant.

In large part because Move the Gas Plant brought the fight to relocate the facility directly to SLR, some of the most affected families who joined our protest have been compensated by SLR for agreeing to withdraw from the fight. Some opponents even chose to sell their

property to SLR rather than live in the shadow of an ugly, polluting, noisy and night sky-obliterating industrial behemoth.

We appreciate those families' hard choices, and thank them for their crucial support. But we also greatly respect and honor those families who chose to stand and fight on – Trish Siler and family, the Bill and Susan Davis family, and Hugh Brown, who were the named parties to the request for a contested case hearing brought at TCEQ by Move the Gas Plant.

At an October 22, 2025 public hearing, *in a span of about a minute and a half of consideration and no discussion*, the three Governor-appointed commissioners of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) announced from their dais a unanimous decision that SLE's air quality permits to build its power plant in the midst of the Blue community should be granted as recommended by TCEQ's Executive Director.

TCEQ's commissioners also denied Move the Gas Plant's request for a hearing before an administrative law judge – a “contested case hearing”- to challenge issuance of the permits on behalf of its affected members who reside very near the proposed site. We note that TCEQ's *public interest counsel* had recommended Move the Gas Plant be given a hearing prior to granting any permits, while both the Executive Director and SLE argued against a hearing. Basically, they argued the gas plant would not pose any significant harm to any of the hundreds of nearby Blue residences shown on SLE's own maps, including those closest to the plant.

The Commissioners made no effort to rationalize the Commission's obvious departure from past agency practice, and its setting of a terrible precedent for all Texans who in the future might oppose power plants like these by adopting the Executive Director's argument that those living beyond 525 feet of the site would not be harmed by any emissions from the plant.

Move the Gas Plant put out a media release immediately after the hearing, summarized as follows:

The TCEQ commissioners Wednesday (Oct. 22) denied Move the Gas Plant's request for a contested case hearing and approved an air emissions permit for Sandow Lakes Energy's natural gas power plant. The denial prevents residents who live very near the site and who are associated with MTGP from having their day in court before an independent judge, to raise their serious concerns that SL Energy's air permits are not sufficiently protective of their health and the environment. The decision was not unexpected, since the TCEQ executive director earlier this month recommended denial of the hearing request. MGTP is now considering other legal options it may have to challenge the gas plant. For more info,

go to MTGP's (October 23) media release on the "NEWS" page of www.movethegasplant.org.

Following that denial, Move the Gas Plant has now filed a Motion for Rehearing with TCEQ to both challenge the TCEQ commissioners' ruling and preserve MTGP's rights to take further legal action in the Texas courts. The motion remains pending before the Commission.

Further legal action in the Texas judicial system would be aimed at avoiding the plant's threat to the health and safety of Blue residents and their family members living near the plant, as well as their use and enjoyment of their property in Blue.

We hope you will read the two most recent blogs at www.movethegasplant.org/news.

The latest blog (posted December 3 and based on our November 28 media release) addresses our motion for rehearing. We also urge that you read our attorneys' informative brief in support of our motion for rehearing --- our arguments for overturning the TCEQ's dismissal of all our community's concerns --- under the website's "Winter 2025 Resources" tab [here](#).

Any responses to our motion that the TCEQ Executive Director and SLE file will be uploaded to "Winter 2025 Resources".

We will keep you informed on an ongoing basis and hope you will stay interested and involved in the future of Blue --- we expect Sandow Lakes Ranch has more plans to industrialize our part of the county to serve its planned The Woodlands-like city and other development interests in Milam County.

In the meantime, you might remember Kayla Schnell's reassuring quote about the opposition to the gas plant in the July 24, 2025, edition of the Lexington Leader:

"SLR wants to bring the communities up with us. It's not always about the money; it's also about the love for people and being proactive as we pave the way for the generations to come. And if you look at everything that goes into the power plant, as far as it being environmentally friendly, the state is not going to issue us the permit if it is detrimental to the community's health and welfare. We're checking those boxes. We want to do it the right way. We genuinely want to do this responsibly."

Kayla is the former Special Assistant for the Lee County Judge and now the Business Systems and Communications Associate with Sandow Lakes Ranch Venture, LLC.

Your support for your neighbors is greatly appreciated. We wish you all a happy holiday season, and a prosperous and healthy 2026.

