Las Brisas Power Plant Faces Biggest Hurdle Yet: Chase Power To Liquidate Assets

AUSTIN, TX - The developer of the proposed Las Brisas power plant in Corpus Christi, Texas, has announced that it is liquidating its assets, marking the latest setback for the proposal to add thousands of tons of air pollution to the skies of coastal Texas.

“As we enter 2013, dirty proposals like the Las Brisas plant are lost at sea. Wind energy is the lowest cost way Texans make electricity. It creates jobs in west Texas and along our coast with no air pollution and no consumption of our vital water resources. The Las Brisas proposal was wrong for Corpus Christi, and it represents Texas’s past, not its future.” said Dr. Al Armendariz, Senior Campaign Representative with the Sierra Club.

Chase Power, the Houston-based developer of the Las Brisas proposal, has faced numerous challenges in trying to convince regulators and the courts that the plant can meet all necessary public health standards. In July 2012, a district court reversed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s decision to issue the power plant a Clean Air Act permit, and sent the permit back to the state agency for additional work because of problems related to sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and other toxic emissions. In December 2012, a federal court ruled against Chase Power and Las Brisas in their attempt to stop national clean air safeguards on carbon emissions. Also in December 2012, EPA informed the company that its federal greenhouse gas air permit application is seriously deficient.

“Chase Power currently holds a worthless piece of paper from the state environmental agency, and the company still needs major federal and state air and water permits in order to lawfully begin construction. It is time for Chase Power to concede that the proposed Las Brisas power plant is finished,” said Ilan Levin, associate director for the Environmental Integrity Project.