
Strong Objection to the Nuweiba Power Plant Project in South Sinai planned by the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company and to be financed by the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank.

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Reply-To: Swisscare Nuweiba Resort Hotel <snrh@swisscare-hotels.com>

To: feedback@spotlocal.net

Strong Objection to the Nuweiba Power Plant Project in South Sinai planned by the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company and to be financed by the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank.

Good evening from Nuweiba !

We kindly ask for to join us in combatting a serious situation that is arising in Nuweiba !

I, and other investors, residents and workers in Nuweiba, have, over the past couple of days, just learned of the plans of the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company to build a very large power plant, (750Mw gas powered turbines on a site of 105000 square metres - towering over 82 metres in height), in the middle of Nuweiba, South Sinai, Egypt.

Financing is reportedly to be forthcoming from the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank, (even though procedures of the banks and of the European Union for the granting of such financing has not been properly adhered to).

Furthermore, we were dismayed and shocked to hear that, allegedly, this project has been approved by the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency. However, we now learn that apparently this is not the case.

If such a plant proceeds, it will have a disastrous effect on the local tourism industry, on the local Bedouin population and, above all, on the local environment.

Nuweiba is one of the most picturesque parts of the whole southern Sinai peninsula, has an excellent and unique tourism potential, is home to two major Sinai bedouin tribes, and has an almost unique, relatively undisturbed underwater marine life.

Apart from the obvious enormous detrimental effects such a project will have on the local environment and population during the construction period, once operational, the plant will have a negative impact on the quality of air, will reduce the level of sunlight, increase noise pollution and, above all, will damage seriously and irreparably the marine life and coral reefs that lie all along the east coast of Nuweiba adjacent to where the plant is planned to be built.

Such a large power plant will also cause the eventual demise of the local tourist industry and subsequently force the closure of the hotels, dive centres and other tourist service providers in the area, resulting in the loss of jobs for the many workers within the tourism industry and the loss of livelihood for the various local businesses that supply products and services to the tourism industry in Nuweiba. Tourism is a major source of income for the local Bedouin tribes so the effects on the loss of this industry is simply unimaginable.

We kindly and respectfully ask your assistance in putting pressure on the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company, the South Sinai Governorate, the European Investment Bank, the African Development Bank and the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency immediately to withhold approvals for this project pending full investigations, in co-ordination with internationally recognised environmental protection agencies, as well as to hold full disclosure meetings and consultation with local residents, businesses and NGOs as this has apparently not been done. The proposers of this project did place an advertisement in Al Ahram Newspaper, (a single, 1/8th page, insertion on the 8th April 2009 with very brief details on the project and with the instructions that any interested parties should visit certain offices either in Cairo, 470 km away, or

Ismaileya, 400 km distant, or attend a meeting on the 15th April 2009 in Sharm el Sheikh, 160 km), but made no other serious attempts to advise, consult or inform the local community.

If you love and wish to preserve the beauty of Nuweiba, we suggest that you write to the following email addresses to lodge a complaint...

Prime Minister's Office, Arab Republic of Egypt primemin@idsc.gov.eg
Minister of Tourism, Arab Republic of Egypt zgarranah@tourism.gov.eg
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency mseaoffice@eeaa.gov.eg
African Development Bank afdb@afdb.org investigations@afdb.org
European Investment Bank cairo@eib.org investigations@eib.org complaints@eib.org
Al Ahram Weekly Newspaper mawaheb@eeaa.gov.eg

also, please raise this matter with the Embassy of Egypt in your country, and, if possible, with the international press.

We need your support more than ever !

Yours sincerely

Alvin J Furrer
Managing Director
Swisscare Nuweiba Resort Hotel

More information :

<http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=21189> - news article on the project - please read and add your comments !!
<http://www.eib.org/projects/pipeline/2007/20070382.htm?lang=-en> - information from one of the financing banks, European Investment Bank
<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Environmental-and-Social-Assessments/Egypt%20-%20Nuweiba%20Combined%20Cycle%20Power%20Plant%20Project%20-%20ESMP%20Summary.pdf> - project description from the African Development Bank with various inaccuracies
<http://www.industcards.com/cc-egypt.htm> - views of other power stations similar to what is planned to be imposed on the people of Nuweiba
<http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g297551-s2/Nuweiba:Egypt:Background.html> - tourist information on Nuweiba
