

Why citizens of Winsted must care about Bio-Gen

By Charlene LaVoie

The Bio-Gen controversy is far from over. Although the Torrington city council voted to end its opposition to the incinerator, the citizens have vowed to continue the battle against the incinerator and to persuade the council to rescind its vote.

This event raises several reminders of the importance of continued citizen involvement: the health and safety issues presented; the unnecessary and unreasonable costs, and; the abuse of the public trust by elected representatives.

Citizens remember the official action of the Winchester Planning and Zoning Commission when Bio-Gen was denied the necessary approvals to build its incinerator in Winsted. The

commission was concerned that the emissions from the smokestacks would pollute the valley and affect the health and safety of residents. The price of the electricity, in addition, made the incinerator of no value: 1 kilowatt of power bought from Bio-Gen would cost 18 cents

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