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Delaware State News/Craig Anderson

Townsend resident Alan Harris joins opponents of a proposed natural gas power plant in Middletown on Feb. 29.

Middletown power plant proposal fuels debate

By Craig Anderson

Delaware State News

MIDDLETOWN — Until DNREC approves an air permit application, there can be no large scale technology center coming to southern New Castle County.

Town officials believe that natural gas engines proposed for the Middletown Technology Center will bring improved electrical power generation that drops air pollution due to less coal and oil use, and bring great economic benefit to the Middletown area.

Some citizens are protesting the process, maintaining that Mayor Ken Branner and town council are withholding details that potentially could impact the project in a negative way.

The next big step is the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's consideration of an air permit that will be open to the public to follow.

A site plan calls for a 228,000-square-foot facility to be located next to a Home Depot and Amazon distribution center near U.S. 301 in west Middletown. Cir-

rus Delaware LLC proposed the project, which will create a spot for stored electronic data and provide a gas generator to back up the electric grid. Up to 52.5 megawatts of electricity can be created, according to the plan.

Early last Monday night at the highly traveled corner of Broad and Main streets, roughly two dozen sign-holding citizens protested plans for the data center that they claim aren't fully understood by the public. Middletown officials, howev-

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Nancy Reagan's main mission was backing 'Ronnie' in White House

Former first lady dies at age 94

By Christopher Weber and Connie Cass

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — First lady Nancy Reagan swept into the White House in 1981, a swirl of designer gowns and pricey china, and was quickly dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. She needed a less frivolous image. And she got it.



Nancy Reagan

By the time she packed up eight years later, the former movie actress was fending off accusations that she'd become a "dragon lady," wielding secret, unchecked power within Ronald Reagan's administration — and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

"I'm a woman who loves her hus-

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