

Captain Kenneth J. Gallison
U.S.C.G Master
25 Circuit Avenue Ext
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
(401)662-5282
kgallison@gmail.com

6/2/09

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you in opposition of O.B. Harbor Gas Station (DRI 621). My family owns property at 25 Circuit Avenue Ext, which is an abutter of your proposed gas facility. The proposed facility will undoubtedly greatly reduce the value of our property. If an accident were ever to occur, our property and the occupants of the property would no doubt be at great risk. We now live in a post 9/11 world. The idea of this facility in front of our house causes great alarm. Would you want this in your front yard? I am also writing to you in opposition of DRI 621 as a licensed United States Coast Guard Captain. After perusing the staff report of said DRI 621, I fail to see the benefits of the facility. I grew up on Oak Bluffs Harbor. Church's Pier was my first job – I worked there for five years. As everyone should know, Church's Pier is a well-protected dock, especially from the prevailing southeast wind. In the proposed placement of your dock you have not considered the following issues -

1. There is no protection from the southeasterly wind for maneuverability.
2. In a northeast wind – there are two issues, wind and seas; this has also not been considered.
3. The placement of the facility is in the navigable channel where the bottle-neck of most vessels occurs. This will affect the maneuverability of vessels to dock for fuel, as well as those vessels entering and exiting the already narrow channel.
4. Security for the ABOVE GROUND fuel tanks.
5. Vessels docked near the fuel tanks will experience both the smell and the unsightliness of said ABOVE GROUND fuel tanks.
6. The placement of the fuel tanks is in a flood plain.
7. The size of the fuel trucks and the frequency of deliveries.

As a Captain of both pleasure and commercial vessels of various sizes, the issue of Oak Bluffs as a "harbor" having fuel or not having fuel would not deter me from berthing in Oak Bluffs Harbor. As a past fuel attendant, I'm well acquainted with the need to fuel larger vessels for greater monetary gain. The placement of the facility does not account for larger vessels.

Having lived and worked on the harbor for many years, I fail to see the need for this facility. I appeal to you to decline this proposal. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Kenneth J. Gallison
U.S.C.G. Master