

Bob's Finds Some Unwanted Interest

Group Challenges "No Interest" Advertising

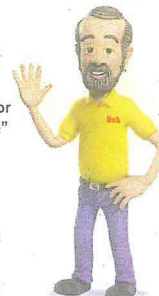
MADISON: Bob's Discount Furniture may sell some nice lounge chairs, but they've found themselves placed on the hot seat by TruthInAdvertising.org [TINA.org], based in Madison.

The "consumer watchdog group" run by former **Wiggin and Dana** attorney **Bonnie Patten**, challenged the company's advertising for "interest free" financing.

Bob's, with 58 locations reaching from Virginia to Maine, found itself in discussion with Connecticut's Department of Consumer Protection, and state Attorney General **George Jepsen**, after complaints from TruthInAdvertising.org that customers of Bob's Discount Furniture weren't properly informed of the company's interest rate sales policy.

Bob's, based in Manchester, has agreed to better explain that failing to pay off the balance within the required time period will trigger a 28 percent interest charge on the entire purchase price, and to make it clear to buyers what payments are required to avoid the interest rate charges.

Bob's voluntarily agreed to the changes to its marketing practices. TruthInAdvertising.org was initially funded by **The Seedlings Foundation**. On its website, TINA says of its mission, "TINA.org is neither anti-marketing nor anti-business! We enjoy and are entertained by great ads as much as anyone. We recognize and appreciate that advertising serves an important role in our society — to introduce new products and services, to highlight competitive advantages, and to enhance brand engagement. TINA.org celebrates the best of advertising past and present." — *Mitchell Young*



Power Station Pollution Hazard Stays Status Quo

English Station Sale Sparks Fresh Debate

By Rachel Bergman

English Station, a defunct power station situated on an island in the middle of the Quinnipiac River, is a point of contention between the City of New

Haven and almost every entity involved in the sale of **United Illuminating** to **Iberdrola SA**, a Spanish utility company. As the hearings on the sale continue through the **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)**, the governing body that



The Polluted English Station Power Plant Looms Over The Fairhaven Neighborhood of New Haven, Seeking Renewal.

must sign off on the transaction, the City has been excluded from the conversation. **Mayor Toni Harp** is asking PURA to enforce UI's responsibility to the English Station clean-up as a caveat to approving the sale, but the City has not been allowed to participate in the hearings regarding the deal.

A 2013 joint order from Attorney General **George Jepsen** and former Department of Environmental and Energy Protection head **Daniel Esty** had **United Illuminating** partially on the hook for the clean-up and remediation at the station. The property, located at **510 Grand Avenue**, New Haven, contains the former electric generating plant and a warehouse. The parties named in the order include **Asnat Realty, LLC** of Bayside, N.Y. and **Evergreen Power, LLC**, of Wilmington, Md., as well as **Quinnipiac Energy, LLC**; **Grant Mackay Demolition**; and the **United Illuminating Company**, all of whom are previous or current owners of the station. All parties sued in Federal Court, putting the clean-up on hold.

The station has been tied up under pending litigation ever since, the plant remains closed and is deemed a continual pollution hazard, particularly after an incident last year in which the **Coast Guard** was called in to clean up oil leaking from the station into the river. Access to the property has previously been limited pending submission of a remediation plan to clean up extensive contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals,

and other contaminants.

Jeffrey Gaudiosi, PURA's executive secretary, provided a written response to the City explaining that the agency "finds that it does not have the subject matter jurisdiction or the expertise to review and determine or enforce the City's environmental claims that UIL or its affiliates are liable for environmental contamination and remediation."

"Moreover, the Authority does not have staff with environmental contamination issues expertise to review such issues, The Authority finds that certain bureaus within the Department of Energy and the federal Environmental Protection Agency or the state or federal courts are more appropriate venues for resolution of the City's environmental claims.", Gaudiosi said in his written response. "

The City of New Haven is not sure it will be able to appeal this decision and will rely on State and Federal agencies to enforce a clean-up.



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Connecticut: 'Help Wanted' Wanted

Connecticut Recovery Slower Than National Average

Connecticut added 4,000 jobs in March — good news after February's loss of 2,900 jobs. Unemployment remains fairly steady at 6.4%, higher than the national average of 5.5%. That represents approximately 121,900 unemployed Connecticut residents according to the U.S. Congress



Joint Economic Committee's state-by-state economic snapshots.

The Committee's snapshots look at key data like private-sector job growth, unemployment, State gross domestic product, home prices, and other factors.

In Connecticut, the sectors with the greatest job growth since the 2010 end of the recession are: leisure and hospitality at 19.7 percent (25,700 jobs), pro-

fessional and business services at 15.8 percent (29,600 jobs) and construction at 11.9 percent (5,800 jobs). March's increased job numbers were led by trade, transportation & utilities (1,500, 0.5%) and retail trade (1,300, 0.7%). Manufacturing and Information, two of Connecticut's 10 job "super-sectors," have been in continual decline over the year. Manufacturing is down .4% and Information is down .3%.

Over the last 12 months, Connecticut has added more than 27,000 jobs, but has only recovered 77.9% of jobs lost during the recession.

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