

Public Hearing July 15, 1006 *Standards for Contaminants: Mercury*  
Environmental Quality board  
IRRC Independent Regulatory Review Commission

It has been said that overwhelming public support for the rule is what it will take to drown out the high-paid mouthpieces of the electric utility and industry interests.

While I have submitted testimony electronically, I cannot pass up the opportunity to try to impress upon decision makers the trust and faith they carry with them to protect public health and safety from Mercury and other pollutants not just for today but for all the tomorrows in the children yet to be conceived and born.

A dangerous damaging line has been crossed in the interest of America's energy consumption. As I present this New York and California are in the news asking for Federal Aide because of interrupted energy supplies. There will be overwhelming pressure on this Board to seek short term solutions for the gluttonous energy appetite in America by bowing to the demands of industry to produce more and more energy as cheaply as possible no matter who or what is hurt or destroyed.

There is a solution but it will take courage and conviction. It is clearly the responsibility of the partnership among business/industry, consumer/ citizen and government to address the energy issue in its entirety but right now the power is in the Government entity of that partnership. You will set the expectation that damaging harm must be avoided. No matter what the arguments, the facts are there to demonstrate the damage done to the environment and health of the nation due to Mercury and other industrial pollutants.

I question business/industries attempt to minimize the toxic effects of Mercury when one teaspoonful contaminates a 20 acre lake.

I have been active in the opposition for a coke plant to be built in Cambria Township in the Cresson mountain area where high Mercury levels have already been documented. At a public meeting I asked the representative from the company advocating the plant being built. If the controls to contain pollution in the plant would be used if they didn't have to and he said "No". Industry, like a child seeking direction during unsafe behavior, needs firm enforce able rules for the protection of self and others.

Our people deserve the protection offered in the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed rulemaking on Mercury reductions from coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania.

Etta Albright  
429 Powell Avenue  
Cresson, PA 16630  
814 886 7311

*Advocate, Stewardship and Sustainability ... for Goodness Sake*

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