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CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILWOMAN - 8th DISTRICT

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July 20, 2006

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Mercury Emission Reduction Proposed Regulation

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing in support of Pennsylvania moving forward with DEP's state-level proposal to cut mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants by 90 percent by 2015.

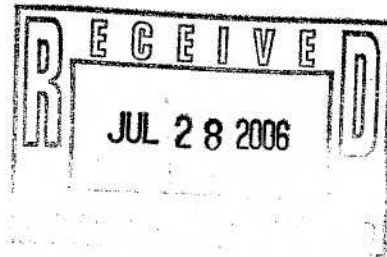
Pennsylvania has 36 coal-fired power plants with 78 electric generating units that represent 20,000 megawatts of capacity. These units accounted for approximately 77 percent of the more than 5 tons of mercury emitted into the air from all contamination sources in the commonwealth, ranking our state second only to Texas in terms of total mercury emissions and third behind Texas and Ohio, respectively, for mercury emissions from electric generating units.

Mercury is a persistent, bio-accumulative neurotoxin that can remain active in the environment for more than 10,000 years. It endangers pregnant women, children, subsistence fishermen and recreational anglers who are most at risk for health effects that include brain and nervous system damage in children and heart and immune system damage for adults.

I wholeheartedly ask DEP to prohibit any mercury trading program and to accelerate the ratification its proposed state-level mercury standards for coal-fired power plants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Donna Reed Miller
Councilwoman
Eighth Council District



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