

DEP HEARING
PITTSBURGH, PA

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My name is Martha Raak. I am a member of the Sierra Club and Penn Future, mother of five, grandmother of eight, a senior citizen, and a retired college Dean. I am very concerned about the quality of the air, water and earth that future generations will inherit from our generation. Will we be proud of our actions?

It is my understanding that we have an opportunity to reduce harmful mercury emissions statewide. As is well known, PA is ranked second nationwide for these emissions. Not only do prevailing winds take our West. PA. pollution eastward, but we also are the recipient of mercury emissions from Ohio (ranked third in the nation).

Unfortunately, leadership on this issue is not forthcoming at the national level. However, the Pa DEP has proposed a rule limiting coal fired power plant emissions and, significantly, disallows trading of pollution credits. I commend DEP for its necessary and courageous stand against the power plant lobby. Indeed, is not our community health priceless?

I call upon our legislators to oppose HB2610/SB1201 as these bills would prevent DEP from setting mercury emission standards higher than the inadequate federal standard.

In a recent poll by Penn Future, four out of five citizens state that they are willing to pay more for electricity in order to clean up these polluting power plant dinosaurs. Let us stop exposing preborns, newborns and children to air pollution which may cause learning disabilities and neurological damage. Frankly, I see this as a form of industrial child abuse.

The technology is available. What are we waiting for??

Thank you.

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