

Environmental Quality Board hearing for Mercury Pollutant Reduction Rules
Wednesday, July 26, 2006, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

I am here as a mother and citizen of Pennsylvania to support the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's proposed rulemaking change on mercury emission standards. The number one reason, I believe this should be done, is that it can be done. The technology is available and affordable. The National Energy Technology Laboratory states that at a minimal cost, coal-fired power plants can be fitted to reduce their mercury emissions. Personally, I am tired of industry telling us that responsible environmental stewardship is too expensive, and that the cost would be passed on to the consumer. We are all consumers of electricity, we all have a responsibility to our children and we all should bear the burden of this responsibility. Is about \$1.00 per month more on an electric bill, more expensive than local school district costs to educate learning disabled students?

We, as Americans, always boast about our ingenuity and innovative skills, this is where that boasting can actually be practiced. Mercury is a neurotoxin, especially harmful to children, when it is our task to protect children, it is unconscionable to not do the most to protect the most vulnerable. As many here will attest to the statistics about the numbers of people already known to have elevated mercury levels, including women of childbearing age, with America's thirst for energy, this number will only increase unless proper leadership is taken and stands up to make the necessary changes. Trading for the right to contaminate is not acceptable, nor is delaying the inevitable need for reduction.

Mercury emissions and resulting contamination is a public health issue. The indirect costs of not lowering emissions fast enough or low enough is felt by the most vulnerable, those living nearest power plants and those relying on subsistence fishing. This too costs us all, likely more than the \$12/year of increased electric bills.

I have three children, I am a Cub Scout leader, I coach envirothon, I enjoy teaching and learning from children. As I am always telling them don't strive to be just good enough, like the Cub Scout motto, I tell them "DO YOUR BEST!" This is what I tell you, "DO YOUR BEST" and tell the coal fired power plants, 'DO YOUR BEST". It is the least we can do.

Respectfully submitted,

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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