Testimony of Anna Aufill 07/26/06

To introduce myself, my name is Anna Aufill, and I'm from Philadelphia. Not only am I concerned about the existing levels of mercury for the sake of the environment, affecting the food chain and our ecosystem, but more specifically I find it horrifying that the fate of our children and our unborn are at significant risk since this toxin can spur disabilities.

I find it reproachable that so many citizens remain uneducated about the mercury that cycles through the water above ground and below, affecting every corner of the state and our 85,000 miles of streams and rivers.

I support the DEP's proposed regulations to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 90%. It is bad enough that we can't feed ourselves with the resources provided by our Earth, but why hasn't the damage caused to humans been more publicized? Safeguards must be initiated by the state to protect citizens' wellbeing and I'm pleased that Pennsylvania is considering making these important cuts to mercury pollution. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

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