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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

5 Bayard Rd (#412)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
July 26, 2006

Ms. Kathleen McGinty  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Commonwealth of PA  
400 Market St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. McGinty:

This letter is occasioned by a letter on mercury pollution by a Dr. James M. Roberts (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 20). It has occurred to me that if the mercury content of coals should vary significantly from seam to seam, then as a stopgap measure pending the universal use of power plant effluent scrubbers, one could set standards for the mercury content for fuel coals that might reduce the total mercury effluent by as much as 50%.

Some inquiries to persons who are more knowledgeable about coals than I have produced literature references to the effect that there is enough variability in the mercury content of coals to make this idea at least technically feasible, if only to put pressure on the PA power industry to install scrubbers. For an initial idea of mercury variability I suggest you Google on "US Geological Survey + Mercury in Coal." A quick search should suffice for you to decide whether the idea of coal bed selection is worth pursuing.

Sincerely,

*Milton Manes*

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