

My name is Arielle Burlett and I live at 1323 Second Street in Beaver, PA. I am very concerned with the excessive level of mercury pollution emitted by our city's coal-fired power plants and its effect on developmental patterns in babies. As a young woman, I plan to have children of my own in the future and I want to be assured that my children will grow up in a clean Pennsylvania—one with vastly reduced levels of mercury pollution emitted into our streams and lakes.

The PA DEP's proposed state-specific regulation calls for a reduction in mercury pollution from power plants by 80% in 2010 and 90% in 2015. Babies and infants are highly sensitive to mercury. Since mercury passes from mother to baby through the placenta and breast milk, toxic levels of mercury in a woman's body leaves her at a higher risk of giving birth to babies with learning and developmental disabilities. In fact, one in six women nationwide has enough mercury in her own body to harm her developing baby. If this proposal is passed, by the time I become a mother, my children will have the opportunity to live in a state where mercury pollution will be almost negligible, risks of developmental impairments in infants will be lowered, and mothers will feel safe when eating fish from our streams and lakes during pregnancy without fear of increasing mercury levels in her body.

I support the PA Environmental Quality Board proposal that calls for a state-specific regulation, which would result in an 80% reduction in mercury emissions by 2010 and a 90% reduction by 2015.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this DEP mercury reduction proposal.

Information gathered from:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. *Department of Environmental Protection.*

<<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/mercury/site/default.asp>>.

2006 AUG -2 PM 2: 51
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
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