

Statement from Gene Wilson regarding Mercury Rulemaking

I strongly support The Department of Environmental Protection's proposed rulemaking on mercury reductions from coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania.

I represent the Energy Committee of the League of Women Voters of Chester County. I am also representing the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania for which I serve as the off-Board Advisor on Energy.

I start from the position THAT MERCURY POSES A MAJOR TOXICITY THREAT TO HUMANS AND WILDLIFE. This mercury comes from emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The federal Clean Air Mercury Rule won't deliver the reductions it claims. It is based on what I would call a "fatal flaw". It would allow pollution trading, a practice I believe was used successfully in reducing overall pollution from acid rain. The difference is that the offending pollutants causing acid rain spread themselves over a wide area. NOT SO WITH MERCURY. I understand that EPA has found that some 70 percent of mercury emissions deposit locally around the source. Intense deposits cause local hot spots which are exceedingly dangerous.

So "trading" of mercury emissions would be based on flawed reasoning and should not be allowed.

Gene Wilson, Member PennFuture. Also off-Board Energy Adviser to League of Women Voters of PA.

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