

ORIGINAL: 2547

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August 8, 2006

IRRC - Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED
2006 AUG 14 AM 9:39
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Re: Comments in favor of DEP Proposed Mercury Rulemaking

Dear IRRC Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

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

I will not attempt to provide here a treatise on the chemistry of Mercury in the environment. Nor will I outline in depth the health impacts of Mercury on human or animal life. I know that you have received this information from many credible sources during the course of the recent public hearings. I reference the testimony from the experts at PennFuture.

I will ask, however, how a body representing the best interests of Pennsylvanians could fail to support the DEP's proposed rulemaking when:

- 1) Citizens must be advised to limit their consumption of fish caught in many of the state's waterways.
- 2) Mercury stays local ... what is spewed into our atmosphere ends up poisoning us. And, on top of that we have to live with whatever blows in from our west. Both DEP and EPA studies show that Mercury contamination is substantially higher near dirty coal-fired power plants
- 3) Pennsylvania ranks 2nd in the nation in Mercury emissions - this is a human tragedy, a social crime, and an economic low blow (hurting our hunting, fishing and recreation industries). (And, comments I've heard that globally most airborne Mercury results from volcanic eruptions is an interesting but meaningless point in the current decision-making process.)
- 4) The Federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) does too little too late. Don't insult us with "good enough" standards imposed by a Federal administration that has been systematically unraveling years of progress against harmful pollution.
- 5) And the CAMR standards won't even help Pennsylvanians as the pollution credit trading game will cause Pennsylvanians to pay for the cleaning of the air elsewhere in the country while we live and die with the Mercury here. And, if CAMR is overturned in the courts, as it should be, we will be left with nothing ... nothing except the Mercury.
- 6) Mercury pollution controls are available and affordable, and Pennsylvania coal-fired power plants are very profitable. And, if they don't feel profitable enough they can pass along the cost of pollution controls to customers.

7) 4 out of 5 Pennsylvanians support a mercury rule that is stronger and implemented faster than the federal rule even if it increases their utility costs.

8) Ultimately the federal pollution credit trading program will undermine the local utilities and economies as well. The money spent on purchasing pollution credits will allow out of state utilities to modernize their plants and, in time, beat out compete Pennsylvania plants through increased efficiency.

9) In addition to the human toll, there are significant costs associated with health impacts on Pennsylvanians including the cost of educating more students with learning disabilities and the increase in health care costs associated with the chemical that is famous for making the Mad Hatter mad.

Don't make Pennsylvanians mad by ignoring these most important considerations. Be proud. Be brave. Take a stance that you (and I) can live with.

Dump the Federal rule. Adopt Pennsylvania DEP's rule.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the proposed rule for cutting mercury pollution from Pennsylvania's power plants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Inserra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "I".

Diane Inserra, MD