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2014 JUN -2 PM 3:13

DEP Public Hearing
May 27, 2014
400 waterfront St.
Washington's Landing
Pittsburgh, PA
Noon

Good Afternoon. My name is Barbara Grover. I live at 5526 Wilkins Ave, Pittsburgh 15217. My husband and I have lived in Pittsburgh for 25 years. My husband is one of the over 8 million people in this state who live in an area that does not meet federal standards for ground level ozone. He suffers from respiratory problems that mean he should not venture outdoors when high pollution reports are announced. We love this city and the many amenities it offers - parks, bike paths, cultural events, walkable neighborhoods. In most cases that means being outside, breathing Pittsburgh air.

We find it difficult to comprehend how the Department of Environmental Protection could base these new limits on a technology that is inferior to that already being used at many power plants in the state. We find it difficult to understand why stringent standards aren't put in place when nearly all - about 80% -- of the coal fired plants in the state have already installed the equipment that would significantly reduce the Nitrous Oxide and Volatile Organic Compounds. This effective, modern pollution control equipment is known as Selective Catalytic Reduction(SCR). These plants seem to be either not operating these pollution controls and are saving on operation costs while we taxpayers are saddled with the medical costs.

All the coal plants need to do is turn on this equipment. The proposed plan to allow the use of "Additional Reasonable Available Control Technology" (RACT) is unconscionable. Using this outdated technology could allow up to 40 percent more pollutants into the air than current limits. This doesn't make sense. You are charged with PROTECTING citizens from harmful air quality.

We also find it difficult to comprehend why individual facilities are not required to meet high standards of air quality. Averaging across facilities is unacceptable. I recall that many years ago, a specific department at one of our local colleges put out literature that said the AVERAGE salary of students graduating from this particular department was a very high number. The difficulty with this AVERAGE was that one of the recent graduates had become a very well paid professional football player. AVERAGE did not convey truth. "On average " across facilities owned by a power-plant operator means that some residents could be subject to extremely toxic SMOG because that region would be balanced by a less toxic area. Each facility needs to be required to meet high air quality standards.

Another issue that is difficult to understand when your job is to PROTECT citizens from poor air quality is the 30 day time period the power plants are allowed to use for computing the AVERAGE. A 1-8 hour time period is essential. People breathe

(over)

every minute of every day. Our lungs should not be breathing in highly toxic SMOG for 15 days and then Okay air for the other 15 for what might be considered an acceptable AVERAGE. Our lungs can be damaged by a very short exposure to toxic SMOG.

Thus, for the sake of my and my husbands health, I strongly urge you to change these standards so that

1. The Selective Catalytic Reduction technology and not the Reasonable Available Control Technology be required
2. That each individual facility be required to meet high air quality standards
3. Monitoring is done during a 1-8 hour time period.

Thank you for your time.