



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Chris Antis
(cga959@gmail.com)

, PA US

Comments entered:

To Whom It May Concern:

I ask that Governor Wolf and other legislators who don't understand the benefits to our local economy that the coal fired generation plants provide, to reconsider their entering into the RGGI agreement. Why would we in Pennsylvania, not use the clean, efficient and abundant coal energy source, found in our own backyard? The technology for solar and wind as a power source, hasn't been discovered fully yet. Those 40 or so wind mills that grace the ridge tops outside of Altoona, may look awesome, but they don't generate electricity.

We have three coal generating plants in our area that have spent millions of dollars over many years to meet all DEP and EPA regulations. A closing of any of the three coal fired plants will have an enormous economic effect, not only in the communities in which they reside, but the surrounding counties of Indiana, Westmoreland, Armstrong and Cambria. The power plant employees, coal companies, the coal truck drivers and the train operators who deliver the coal, and the scaffolding workers. The union members from the boiler makers, electrical workers, etc. The local businesses who supply hardware from nuts and bolts to the lumber yards who supply wood for scaffolding. Too many in our community have no idea how many people are involved in the day to day operations of these power plants and the benefits to our local businesses.

Let's think about if these plants weren't here in the communities of Homer City, Shelocta and New Florence. Where would the tax base in these communities come from? The school districts of Homer Center, United, Northern Cambria, Ligonier Valley, Indiana and Armstrong would

surely feel the effects with teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, no sports or arts programs and building closers. Eventually, districts would close all together and community's without good schools, don't attract new residents or businesses.

These small towns have already felt the effects of when major employment closes or leaves the area. My husband and I moved to Indiana when my husband accepted a job as assistant high school principal in the Indiana Area School District. Student enrollment at the high school in 1986 was approximately 1100 students for grades 10 - 12. The R & P Coal Company was the largest employer at the time. Indiana's downtown business area was booming. That was 34 years ago. Indiana schools have seen a large reduction in enrollment to 2700 students for grades K - 12. R & P Coal Company is no more. Our downtown is still viable but struggling. The largest employer in the area is IUP which is shrinking, IRMC and our local banks, First Commonwealth and Savings & Trust thankfully for now, have their head quarters located here. I realize things change, businesses come and go according to need but the need for electricity, generated from the three power plants, never ends. The majority of the power generated may provide life and light to cities along the Atlantic sea board, but it provides life and jobs for those of us in Western PA.

A few weeks ago after returning home from work at the Homer City Generation Plant, my son in law was worriedly talking about coal and the future of the plant with my daughter. My seven year old grandson Jack, over heard his dad's concern and innocently said, " Daddy, if I get coal in my stocking for Christmas, I'm going to give it to you to use at work".

I wish all the union workers effected if the plants close, especially one of the most influential in Pennsylvania, the PA Teachers Union, will consider the devastating consequences of the decision if our governor enters the RGGI agreement. We need them to support the coal fired generation plants and make that clear to Governor Wolf.

Thank you and Merry Christmas,
Chris and Jim Antis

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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