



It's time to enforce the Clean Air Act in Texas

Barbara Tieken o Stanley Spruiell

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Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services
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Please respond to Barbara Tieken

Nov 12, 2009

Mr. Stanley Spruiell

Dear Mr. Spruiell,

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is broken. I applaud EPA's proposed ruling that major portions of the TCEQ air permitting process does not adhere to the Clean Air Act, and should be thrown out.

That was a good first step. Now is the time for the EPA to take bold action by:

- Halting any new air pollution permits from being issued by TCEQ utilizing TCEQ's current illegal policy
- Creating a moratorium on the operations of any new coal fired power plants in Texas until the TCEQ cleans up its act by operating under the Federal Clean Air Act standards
- Requiring coal companies clean up their old, dirty plants -- no exemptions, no bailouts, and no special treatment by reviewing all permits issued since the TCEQ adopted its illegal policies and requiring that these entities resubmit their applications in accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act.
- Put stronger rules in place in order to reduce global warming emissions and to makes sure new laws and rules do not allow existing coal plants to pollute old global warming emissions.

Texas has more proposed coal and pet coke fired power plants than any other state in the nation, is #1 in carbon emissions, and is on the top of the list for the largest increase in emissions over the past five years. Texans deserve better. We cannot let coal stand in the way of our clean energy future in Texas--the EPA must put strong rules in

place to make sure the coal industry is held responsible for their mess and that no permits issued under TCEQ's illegal permitting process are allowed to proceed forward. Strong regulations are vital to cleaning up the energy industry and putting us on a path to clean energy technology that boosts economic growth, creates jobs in Texas and protects our air quality, health and communities.

I've been most distressed to see the weak, tepid responses of TCEQ to environmental violations in Texas. For example, my county, Lavaca

County, has more cancer cases than surrounding counties. Is that being monitored? What's causing that?

TCEQ has so leaned in the direction of business-as-usual in Texas that we are doing a great disservice to our people, causing unnecessary health problems, fouling our air aggravating people with respiratory diseases, looking the other way along the Texas coasts as our waters

become so polluted that we can't harvest oysters or fish in some areas.

What a dirty smear on Texas.

Texas is a primary Recreational Tourist state. When will we get it into our thick skulls that that requires pristine beaches, clean and swimmable waters, (both coastal and river), clean air, protection of endangered species and all waterfowl, and conversion to wind and solar energies which we have in ample supply (but not in any migratory bird

flyways, thank you). In the interim, we have great reserves of natural gas, a much, much cleaner fossil fuel than dirty coal.

No new coal plants!! Let's get those windmills turning instead. And let's get that electric grid built that can transport that energy out of state to the northeast where it is needed, supplying Texas with a nice chunk of change and a cleaner environment. Come on, Texans, move it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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