



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

Mark Coats o Stanley Spruiell

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Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services  
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Please respond to Mark Coats

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 make sure new laws and rules do not allow existing coal plants to pollute old global warming emissions.

The time has come to chart a wise energy course. We can no longer look to coal for our needs. Burning coal endangers Texans and adds to climate destabilization. The hidden costs of coal have now been revealed. We must look forward, toward innovative clean energy that boosts economic growth, creates jobs and protects our health.

Regulations with real teeth are needed. The TCEQ must end its illegal permitting. I urge the EPA to put rules in place to reduce global warming emissions and to make sure that any new laws do not allow existing coal plants to continue to belch out dangerous pollutants and global warming gases.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Coats  
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