



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

Nicola Hartzell o Stanley Spruiell

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Sent by: **Sierra Club Membership Services**
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Please respond to Nicola Hartzell

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.

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.

As a side note, I voluntarily moved away from a homestead where Alcoa

had been allowed to open a new lignite mine, illegally, but with George Bush's approval because they donated to his presidential campaign. I and many of my close friends developed thyroid malfunctions after this mine opened. If you think about it, unearthing thousand year old

buried gases along with the lignite may just be hazardous to everyone's health. Studies have been performed in Papua New Guinea on the endocrinological effects of lignite mining, but of course none in the U.S. The TCEQ is complicit with the local companies they are charged

with regulating. They need a regulator themselves. Regards, Nicky
Hartzell

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicola Hartzell
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