



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

Grace Hill o Stanley Spruiell

11/13/2009 04:04 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services
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Please respond to Grace Hill

Nov 13, 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 continue polluting with global-warming emissions.

Contrary to popular nationwide opinion, not everybody in Texas is pro-coal, pro-oil-and-gas, and anti-environmental regulation. However,

the TCEQ appears to be behaving as if that is the case, and as if Texas is an independent country. TCEQ's illegal permitting process flouts Congress and the EPA, and disregards the long-term interests of Texas citizens.

You must put strong rules in place to make sure the coal industry is held responsible 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.

Sincerely,

Ms. Grace Hill
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