



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

Dixie Ivi Brown o Stanley Spruiell

11/12/2009 12:57 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services
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Please respond to Dixie Ivi Brown

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 should be ashamed and embarrassed about its lazy attitude towards the fact that it is the #1 state in the nation in regards to carbon emissions; and we've even been increasing these harmful emissions at that! What a sad picture we are painting for our future generations! Texas is a state that has strong roots in family values. It is way beyond time for us to understand that family values is synonymous with

caring for the environment, and our family is and will always be a part of it---whether it is thriving or dying. Neglecting our natural environment is neglecting our children, their children, and so on the privilege to enjoy a beautiful healthy world. Texans deserve better and, yes, although many need to be woken up more effectively to the fact that we all are necessary to have this change for the better, it is vital that our government remains wise about the choices that it makes to protect its people. We cannot let coal stand in the way of our clean energy future in Texas--the EPA must put strong, enforced 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 absolutely necessary to clean up the energy industry, and they will most certainly put us on the path to clean energy technology. More clean technology means a boost in economic growth and the creation of

more progressive jobs in Texas that protect our air quality, health and

communities. It's only common sense that we steer away from coal,
because what good is a fist full of dollars if we can't breathe?

Sincerely,

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