



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

Richard Faidley o Stanley Spruiell

11/10/2009 02:35 PM

Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services
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Please respond to Richard Faidley

Nov 10, 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, yet coal is an environmentally destructive

energy choice over its entire life cycle, from from strip mine tailings to power plant emissions. Like many state environmental commissions, the TCEQ all too often evades its mandated regulatory function and acts as a rubber stamp for industry ambitions. Please hold them accountable and ensure that no permits issued under TCEQ's illegal permitting process are allowed to proceed. We need an energy future that is not held hostage by the political power of the coal lobby.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Faidley
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