

Message Information

Date 10/02/2009 09:17 PM
From Sierra Club Membership Services <membership.services@sierraclub.org>
To LisaP Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc
Subject It's time to enforce the Clean Air Act in Texas

Message Body

Oct 2, 2009

Ms. Lisa Perez Jackson
Ariel Rios Federal Building, Room 3000
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Ms. Perez Jackson,

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, 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. Please please look into Big Brown coal mine in Freestone County. It has been said we have the dirtiest air, of any county in Texas. Our group Citizen's for Environmental Clean-up, have had an air monitor approved in the county budget. In 2007 they "lost" our bid sheet. This year after approval, about 10 days later Byron Cook came to town and said if we really needed one, TCEQ would get us one. We are already aware of their monitors with charcoal filters to give ambient readings. Please help us to breathe.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sharon Ward
159 Private Road 917
Fairfield, TX 75840-5335
903.389.6321 214.536.0610

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