



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

Mark Juedeman o Stanley Spruiell

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Sent by: Sierra Club Membership Services
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Please respond to Mark Juedeman

Nov 15, 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.

As an individual I am doing everything I can to reduce my carbon

emissions--from improving the energy performance of my home to changing my lifestyle to purchasing 100% wind electricity. Unfortunately there is only so much an individual can do alone. Government must do its part as well and take the action it is obligated to do. Texas will be particularly hard hit by the effects of climate change--indeed it already is--and there is an onus upon regulators to take strong action now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the damage.

Stopping new coal plant construction and cleaning up or shuttering old plants is the first step. There is no time to waste. You need to act now.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Juedeman
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