



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

Elizabeth Choate to: Stanley Spruiell

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Sent by: **Sierra Club Membership Services**
<membership.services@sierraclub.org>

Please respond to Elizabeth Choate

Oct 5, 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 pollute old global warming emissions.

Here in Texas it is common knowledge that the TCEQ is a joke whose purpose is to protect industry over people. It is time that the EPA did its job and force the TCEQ to make good on its responsibility to the citizens of Texas.

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.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Choate
3105 Dominic Dr
Austin, TX 78745-7461
(409) 838-4976