

ORIGINAL

To: Pollution Control Board
James R Thompson Center
100 West Randolph, Ste. 11-500
Chicago, IL 60651
Attn: Mercury Docket Rule

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MAY - 3 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

206-25

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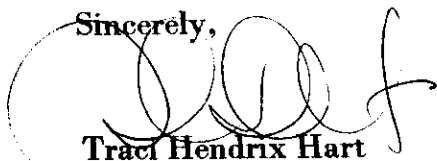
I urge the members of the IL Pollution Control Board to approve the Governor's proposal to limit mercury emissions from coal fires plants to an average of 90% for each company by 2009. I also support the provision to disallow mercury credit trading, since Southern Illinois and the Chicago area are already "hotspots" for mercury pollution. Six of the top 15 lakes and streams on the strictest mercury advisory are in southernmost Illinois.

Studies done in Massachusetts, where mercury emissions have been greatly reduced, have shown that mercury levels in fish are lowered when mercury pollution from coal burning is decreased. The latest nationwide study done by Sierra Club indicates that as many as one out of four women of child bearing age have so much mercury in their bodies that their children are in danger of birth defects, mental retardation and learning disabilities. In addition, high mercury levels have been associated with an increased number of heart attacks in adults.

Wildlife is also affected by mercury at levels less than half the level shown to affect humans, resulting in less success in spawning, nesting and survival to adulthood. Besides the warnings to limit consumption of predator fish, hunters are now being warned to limit their consumption of wild ducks. We are not hunters or fishermen, but have many friends and family who are, and with our children approaching the age that they are learning to cultivate an appreciation for the many facets of wildlife, from lake to table, if you will, I anticipate a sorry lesson for them if the state of acceptable pollution levels continues.

The technology to capture 90% of the mercury from burning coal is already available and cost effective. Why not implement these standards? There is so much to gain. I am certainly willing to pay the couple of bucks per month to protect my children, the children of Illinois, adults and innumerable wildlife from mercury pollution.

Sincerely,



Traci Hendrix Hart
610 South Elliott Street
Olney, IL 62450