



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
PALATINE AREA

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AUG 25 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

August 18, 2006

REGARDING: The Proposed Illinois Mercury Emissions Reduction Rule (PCB Case No: R2006-025)

The Honorable Senator Steven Rauschenberger
Illinois Senate District 22
1112 South Street
Elgin, Illinois 60123

PC# 6285

Dear Senator Rauschenberger,

The League of Women Voters of the Palatine Area urges you to support the plan to reduce coal-fired power plant mercury emissions by ninety percent by mid-year 2009. If this proposal becomes law, it will benefit the residents of the communities we serve: Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Schaumburg.

The health harms of mercury are well known: mercury is a potent toxin that puts developing fetuses and children at risk of developmental delays, decreased IQ, and memory and attention difficulties. Higher doses similarly impair adults and increase the risk of heart attacks. Humans get most of their mercury from eating fish—and the state's testing has found that 40 percent of fish samples in Illinois are contaminated at unsafe levels. The Illinois Department of Public Health warns people to eat no more than one meal per week of any predator fish caught in the state due to mercury contamination in Illinois waters.

Fortunately, the proposed rule is a solution that can be implemented now. The twenty-one coal-fired power plants in Illinois are the single largest source of in-state mercury emissions. Available technologies can capture 90 percent of this mercury before it leaves the stack.

The Illinois mercury rule is a response to the federal EPA's weak, industry-drafted mercury rules that won't address local pollution hotspots and will delay meaningful mercury reductions for at least a decade, putting at risk another generation of children. Four states have already gone beyond the federal rule by putting their plants on a schedule to eliminate 90 percent of their mercury emissions. We should adopt the IEPA proposal to do the same for Illinois.

We ask you to support the Illinois mercury reduction rule.

Sincerely,

Susan Spengler
President

cc: Illinois Pollution Control Board ✓
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules