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Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

JUN 14 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

June 13, 2006

Dear Board Members,

I am writing as a citizen, retired physician, and registered voter to urge you to cut mercury pollution due to coal-fired energy generation by 90% by 2009 as has been proposed. I presume you are already aware of the numerous health effects due to mercury, particularly in those with other health problems, pregnant women, and especially fetuses and children.

Causing the citizens of Illinois, especially those unfortunate enough to live near coal-burning energy plants to inhale preventable mercury emissions, I feel is unconscionable.

I realize that reducing emissions always costs money. I urge you not to put dollars over human health. Consider also that dollars spent on reducing mercury emissions SAVE dollars in state-sponsored health care currently being spent on mercury-related illnesses.

Please choose protecting the health of the public. I like to think my tax dollars are spent to improve the lives of the citizens, not on protecting profits for energy companies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Paula F. Cowan, M.D.*

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*PC# 6236*