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MAY - 3 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Illinois Pollution Control Board  
Attn: Mercury Rule Docket  
100 W. Randolph St. 11-500  
Chicago, IL 60601

Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Pollution Control Board

PC#218

Nationally, forty-five states have health warnings for eating locally-caught fish due to mercury. In many states, these warnings include all fish and all waters. We call on you to address, by all means possible, the substantial mercury pollution problem we face today.

• One-in-six women of child-bearing age – over 630,000 – have blood mercury levels that can poison her developing child.

• Nationally, estimates on the economic impacts to taxpayers for the effects of mercury poisoning range as high as \$43.8 billion dollars per year.

• Technology exists that would protect the health and safety of our communities by reducing mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants by 90% or more, and

• Alternatives exist for most mercury-containing products or purposeful uses.

We need swift, comprehensive action to effectively deal with mercury pollution. We call upon you to initiate actions to address this problem at all levels.

Respectfully yours,

Print name Jeffrey Cornelius

Print address 809 Lagan St

City, ST, zip Alton IL 62002

email or phone number jbc@prin.edu 618 462 6034