

**Deaths and Injuries from Coal Electric Plants...**  
**Just one drop of mercury can contaminate a 25-acre lake to the**  
**point where fish are unsafe to eat**  
**6-7-09**

I found the following link and others when I put [deaths and injuries from coal electric plants](#) into a search engine. The first link below has a copy right date of 2002. I think that in addition to the economic and environmental arguments against coal fired electric plants we should be including the deaths and injuries from coal electric plants. The link below mainly compares the older dirtier plants with the newer cleaner plants, however, even the newer cleaner plants contribute significantly to illness and death.

According to Mark Robinson in a conversation this past Saturday, he learned a few more details about the new technology being experimented with by CSU to reduce pollution from coal fired plants. Some of the reductions are significant, but some pollutants, such as mercury, are not reduced at all. And I would argue that even when the pollution is significantly reduced the deaths and injuries are only reduced, certainly not eliminated. So calling coal plants that still cause significant environmental and health pollution clean is not so much a misnomer as outright fraud and deception.

The number of coal miners killed each year also appears to be significant.

Mark also indicated that the CSU Citizens' Advisory Committee was unable to find any data or research on deaths and illness attributable to coal fired electric plants, yet I was able to find significant information on this subject in five minutes by simply doing a computer internet search. I only explored one of the links that came up when I typed in deaths and injuries from coal electric plants. (Mark later indicated that the group was looking for research on the health effects of existing coal fired plants owned by CSU. Apparently no such study has to date been done. It is interesting that many large construction projects require extensive environmental studies, yet a coal plant apparently is not required to do such a study, let alone a study of the effect of the plant on the health of the local citizens. Very interesting.)

<http://www.sustainablecoast.org/dirtypowerplants2.html>

Power to Kill, Death and Disease from Power Plants Charged with Violating the Clean Air Act,  
<http://www.catf.us/publications/view/10>

a report released this month by the Clean Air Task Force, the 51 targeted plants shorten the lives of as many as 9,000 people and cause as many as 170,000 asthma attacks each year. Installing the modern pollution control technology required by NSR would avoid between 4,300 and 7,000 of these deaths and up to 120,000 asthma attacks. In Ohio, which has seven power plants under investigation, as many as 638 premature deaths occur each year as a result of pollution from power plants. Between 306 and 459 of these deaths could be avoided with modern emissions controls.

Although the current NSR cases involve plants located in the Midwest and Southeast, areas outside that targeted region have had to deal with the effects of this pollution. The Clean Air Task Force reports that emissions from these plants harm downwind states resulting in up to 2,100 premature deaths and 39,000

asthma attacks each year in the Northeast. If the targeted plants met modern pollution standards, as many as 1,700 deaths and 31,000 asthma attacks in Northeastern states would be avoided each year. In fact, Pennsylvania, which does not have any power plants under investigation, is among the top three states for deaths attributable to pollution from power plants. Between 546 and 705 premature deaths occur each year in Pennsylvania, up to 515 of which could be avoided annually if these power plants installed modern emissions controls.

Mercury causes brain, lung, and kidney damage, as well as reproductive problems, and even death in humans and other animals. Mercury is found in fish after it falls into a lake or stream. Just one drop of mercury can contaminate a 25-acre lake to the point where fish are unsafe to eat, making mercury contamination the most common reason for fish advisories issued by States and Native American tribes. The EPA estimates that at least six million women of childbearing age have levels of mercury in their bodies that exceed what the EPA considers acceptable and that 375,000 babies born each year are at risk of neurological problems due to exposure to mercury in the womb.

**The CSU utility board will be considering additional funding for the solar electric program at a meeting sometime this week. (The third party who provided this information turned out to be incorrect.) Mark suggested people show up at this meeting to give a 3 minute or so presentation.**

**Please forward to others.**

*Lotus*

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