

## **Sample Action Alert and Public Comment on EPA Mercury/Air Toxics Rule March 15, 2011**

Thanks for your interest in submitting comments on the EPA mercury/air toxics rule.

### **Here are all the ways you can submit comments:**

**1) E-mail: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov), Attention Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234. \*\*Note: To make sure all email comments are counted correctly, please put the docket number included in the email or (preferably, according to EPA) in the subject line.\*\***

2) Regulations.gov website (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

3) EPA Air and Radiation Docket Web Site (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/docket.html>). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

4) Fax: Fax your comments to: (202) 566-9744, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234 .

5) Mail: Send your comments on the NESHAP action to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234. Please include a total of two copies. In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the information collection provisions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20503.

6) Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holiday), and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

### **Sample Action Alert:**

#### **Possible Subjects:**

Toxic Mercury: It's what's for dinner  
Mercury roulette  
Stop Mercury and Air Toxics Now

#### **Email Content:**

Mercury pollution is poison and it's likely building up in you or one of your loved ones.

**It might as well be Russian Roulette:** At least 1 in 12, and as many as 1 in 6 American women of childbearing age have enough mercury in their bodies to put a baby at risk for mercury poisoning<sup>1</sup>. Mercury and other dangerous air pollutants are connected to extreme health problems: brain damage, learning disabilities, birth defects, heart

---

<sup>1</sup> Kathryn R. Mahaffey et al., "Blood Organic Mercury and Dietary Mercury Intake: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999 and 2000," *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 112, #5 (April 2004): <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2003/6587/6587.html>.

disease, cancer and even pre-mature death.<sup>2</sup> **And we finally have a chance to end the cycle.**

**Please send a message to the EPA today to stop air toxics like mercury from harming our communities.**

After 20 years of delay, the Environmental Protection Agency has finally proposed strong mercury and air toxics standards for power plants.

**Every day coal plants spew mercury and other toxics from their smokestacks without regard for how it impacts their neighbors.** Mercury from these plants accumulates in local waterways and poses a direct risk to people when they eat contaminated fish.<sup>3</sup>

Our nation's biggest polluters want to block these standards, but if enacted, **the EPA's safeguards could save thousands of lives every year!**<sup>4</sup>

There has never been a clearer need for massive public involvement. We must lead the charge to make sure the EPA has the support it needs to clean up this dangerous pollution and protect our public health. **Together, we will send hundreds of thousands of comments and ensure the best possible standards for our health. Send your message to the EPA today in support of life saving protections that can keep mercury pollution out of our communities.**

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 tribes and two U.S. territories have issued fish advisories, many of them due to the risks of mercury poisoning.<sup>5</sup>

Other air toxics are just as dangerous to our public health. Arsenic, dioxins and acid gases are also spewing from the nation's power plants, putting people at risk across the country. Enough is enough.

**Tell the EPA to enact strong air toxics standards.**

**Whether you live in Seattle, Washington, Hastings, Nebraska or Boston, Massachusetts – we are all at risk.** And finally, after years of delays, court orders, and your support, the EPA is making a strong stand for public health, requiring big polluters to stop spewing mercury arsenic, acid gases, dioxins and other air toxics from their smokestacks.

**Stand with us now and tell the EPA to get the job done!**

**Sample public comment (to submit to EPA)**

---

<sup>2</sup> Emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal-fired Power Plants. Environmental & Health Engineering, Inc. Report, 17505. March 7, 2011. Prepared for American Lung Association.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. EPA, National Listing of Fish Advisories, Technical Factsheet, EPA-823-F-09-007; September 2009 <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/fishadvisories/tech2008.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. EPA, **[Insert name of proposed rule and link, when released on 3/16/11]**

<sup>5</sup> U.S. EPA, National Listing of Fish Advisories (see above)

**RE: Stop Mercury and Air Toxics Now** (EPA Docket # EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234)

Dear Administrator Lisa Jackson:

Thank you for proposing long-overdue Clean Air Act standards to protect our nation's communities from the threats of toxic air pollution from power plants. Power plants are the largest source toxic air emissions in the United States, and yet absent these proposed standards now, no national standards exist to protect communities from toxics air pollution from these sources.

Power plants emit include some of the most hazardous air pollutants known to us. In addition to mercury and arsenic, power plants emit lead, other heavy metals, dioxin and acid gases. Even in small amounts these extremely harmful air pollutants are linked to health problems such as cancer, heart disease, brain damage, birth defects, asthma attacks and even premature death.

Without strong protections, thousands of people will continue to suffer. EPA needs to adopt the strongest air toxics protections possible and stand its ground against industry pressure to weaken the proposed standards. Please continue to defend public health and protect our communities and children from mercury and other toxic air pollution.

Sincerely,

XX

**Questions, comments:**

Michael.Grenetz@sierraclub.org, 206-855-3075 (Online Organizing)

Lyndsay.moseley@sierraclub.org, 202-548-4581 (Federal Policy)