

## **HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC COMMENTING: EPA'S PROPOSED MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS RULE**

When the executive branch of the federal government proposes new or changed regulations, the American people have the right to get involved by commenting on the proposed rules. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard, and luckily, the process is simple. **You can submit written comments, attend a public hearing, or both.**

Once you have learned about the proposal for limiting mercury and other air toxics from coal plants and decided that you want to comment, you can either write up your own comments or see our draft comment letter below. In addition, you can attend a public hearing and speak directly to EPA. In either case, here are the specifics on how to comment.

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

No matter how you submit your comments, make sure they are identified with the special docket number for this mercury rule: **EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234**.

→ **Through the internet:** go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the simple instructions or go to [www.epa.gov/oar/docket.html](http://www.epa.gov/oar/docket.html) and follow instructions for submitting comments to the EPA Air and Radiation Docket web site.

→ **By Email:** Include your comments as an attachment or in the email's text, then email to [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov). Include the docket number in the subject line. Note that Internet submissions are anonymous, email submissions are not.

→ **By Fax:** send to 202.566.9744 and make sure the cover sheet has the docket number.

→ **By Mail:** Include two copies of your comments and send to:  
EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)  
Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code: 2822T  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20460.

→ **Hand Delivery:** Walk two copies of your comments to the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, in DC at Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20406. Be sure to go during normal business hours.

**Feel free to use the sample letter on the next page as the basis for your comments. Make changes as you see fit, and remember to put in the date and sign with your own name.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a public hearing in Atlanta, GA on May 26, 2011. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion out loud and directly to EPA. You will have 3-5 minutes to speak, but must sign up in advance by contacting Ms. Pamela Garrett at EPA. You can reach Ms. Garrett by email at [garrett.pamela@epa.gov](mailto:garrett.pamela@epa.gov) or by phone at 919-541-7966. When you call or email, be prepared to give the following information:

- Your name                      → The time you would like to speak (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Your Address                    → Your telephone number
- Your email address            → Any special accommodations or equipment you may need

The hearing will be from 9am to 8pm at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, Conference Rooms C and D, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. For questions about the venue, please call 800-241-1754. Because this is a Federal facility visitors will need to bring picture ID and pass through security.

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**YOUR NAME  
YOUR STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP**

**DATE**

The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: Submission of Comments on the Proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234**

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I strongly support EPA's decision to regulate mercury and other air toxics under the Clean Air Act. This crucial step has already been delayed for far too long while human health and the environment have suffered. I am extremely proud that you have taken this important step to safeguard our health and to hold coal plants—like all other major sources of mercury and air toxics—accountable for their pollution.

The proposed rule will establish first-ever national standards for mercury emissions from coal plants, and importantly, unlike so many other clean air rules, this proposal will require that the oldest, least efficient and dirtiest plants actually comply with new pollution limits. By bringing existing coal plants into the fold, this rule will help utilities to finally pay the true costs of running these dinosaur plants for decades beyond their intended lives. As your own findings show, this step will save thousands of lives and prevent thousands of illnesses.

Here in the Southeast we have nearly 300 coal units that, according to the Toxic Release Inventory, emit over 20,000 pounds of mercury into the air each year. Because of our overdependence on coal and the mercury pollution it leaves behind, every state in this region has fish consumption advisories based on mercury. With nearly 6.5 million anglers in the Southeast, unsafe, mercury-contaminated waters are particularly troubling for us. Our fishing industry brings over \$10 billion in revenue to our states according to the Fish & Wildlife Service. Millions of people and our economy could benefit substantially from healthier waters.

Finalizing this rule is an extraordinarily clear decision. You have done substantial research and analysis to support adoption of strong, evidence-based limits that provide sufficient flexibility while also providing enormous health, environmental and economic benefits. Thank you for the effort and please finalize this rule in a timely manner.

Respectfully Submitted by:

YOUR NAME HERE