

The Bush Administration: Making Matters Worse

Under the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Acts, Congress allowed older power plants to put off installation of pollution controls because the industry argued they would close down the old and build new plants. Since then, utilities have been keeping these older power plants going *without working to reduce mercury pollution coming from them.*

Now, by law, Environmental Protection Agency must set a mercury control limit for these older, dirtier, coal-fired power plants.

Facts to consider:

- Reducing local and regional sources of mercury pollution reduces the amount of mercury in locally-caught fish (*2003 Florida DEP report*).
- The EPA told industry in 2001 that they would require 90% reductions, based on technology that's even more affordable today. (*The presentation can be viewed at: cta.policy.net/epamercury.pdf*)
- However, under pressure from the Bush Administration, EPA announced on January 30th it will only require a 30% mercury pollution reduction by 2010. The Bush administration will also allow dirtier power plants to buy mercury pollution credits from cleaner power plants, leading to local mercury "hot spots."

Don't let the Bush Administration endanger you and your family's health to save polluting power plants money!

Go to www.northstar.sierraclub.org/air/mercury/national.htm for more information on this rule.

For more information about the Sierra Club's Clean Air Campaign or to get involved, contact us at:

314-645-2032
jill.miller@sierraclub.org
573-815-9250
carla.klein@sierraclub.org

Visit our website at:
Missouri.sierraclub.org



What Can You Do?

- Public hearings on the Bush proposal will be held in Chicago on February 25th and 26th. Call 314-645-2032 or 573-815-9250 to learn about the carpool to Chicago for clean air and safe fish.
- Properly dispose of any household products containing mercury. Buy mercury-free alternatives when available.
- Turn off lights, conserve energy and purchase Energy Star® efficient appliances to reduce reliance on energy and the coal used to generate it.
- Choose "green power" options if offered by your utility to buy clean renewable energy for use in your home.

Common Mercury Products

Mercury is found in a variety of items including:

- **Thermometers**
- **Button batteries**
- **Household & Appliance switches**
(including thermostats, curling irons, light switches)
- **Computer and other electronic devices**
- **Silver dental fillings**
- **Fluorescent lamps**
- **Vaccines** and other pharmaceuticals

For more items and information see:
www.nwf.org/greatlakesoffice/pdfs/mercuryproducts.pdf

Mercury-free or low mercury alternatives exist for many of these items. Consider buying newer items like digital thermometers and low-mercury lamps. **It is important that you don't just throw the old items in the trash.** Call your local government office about where to drop-off your old items so they can be disposed of safely, or visit earth911.org to find a place to take any mercury-containing item for safe disposal.