

March 16, 2015

Petition urging greater protection from smog under the proposal: "Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOX and VOCs."

Dear Governor Wolf,

Seventeen counties in Pennsylvania, home to 2/3 of our population, live in areas that fail to meet national standards for smog pollution. The plan you will be sending to the EPA later this year falls far short of protecting public health from the largest single source of smog-causing pollution in the state, coal-fired power plants.

This proposal fails in three key ways. First, it sets NOx pollution limits for most coal-fired power plants that are twice as high as what most plants are capable of achieving with technology already installed at the plants.

Second, the proposal allows emissions to be averaged over a full month. Since smog exposure is dangerous for short periods of time, this averaging fails to prevent exposure to unhealthy air by letting plants pollute more on already bad air days. This can lead to asthma attacks, hospitalizations, and even premature death.

And third, it lets plants that have not installed the technology that most others have off the hook, giving these laggards an unfair advantage. We cannot allow the dirtiest plants in the state to continue polluting simply because they have failed to clean up previously.

We urge you to correct these deficiencies in the rule to ensure that coal power plants are doing all they can to protect the health of our families.

Sincerely, The Undersigned