

Daniel T. Kremer
115 East Hillis Street
Youngwood, PA 15697-1126
(724)925-9979

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMENTS ON THE EPA PROPOSAL TO LOWER EMISSIONS
FROM EXISTING POWER PLANTS

BACKGROUND

Thank you for the time to address you on this important matter of both state and national significance today.

My name is Daniel Kremer. I reside at 115 East Hillis Street, Youngwood, Pennsylvania in Westmoreland County. Since birth, my place of residence and work has been within 40 miles of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, my place of birth. My wife of 42 years has also been a resident of Pennsylvania since birth.

At this time I am retired. Previous to my retirement, I was an underground coal miner for almost 33 years, holding coal miner's certification in both Pennsylvania And West Virginia. I also hold Mine Foreman Certification in Pennsylvania. My experiences also include being a member and past captain of Mine Rescue Team # 2 out of the DEP Mine Rescue Station in Uniontown. Enviromental Remediation is also a part of my employment background with work at a low level radiation clean up site and other types of enviromental clean up sites.

At age of 53, I returned to school and received a degree as a Respiratory Therapist. Up until my retirement on April 1 of this year, I have worked as a Registered Respiratory Therapist in a hospital situation. My license is still active in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

My background gives me a multifaceted way of looking at these proposed carbon emission changes.

POSITION

I do not agree with the proposed carbon emissions guidelines by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is a change that will have an adverse effect upon a wide variety of people and industries. It is too soon to enact these rules without economically sound proven technology to meet them.

WHY THIS POSITION?

In the past it was stated that the first 90% to 95% of air pollution would be feasible and cost effective to achieve. Also for each percent beyond this, the price would be at least equal to or more than the whole cost all previous achievements. When the research and technology is economical and effective then and only then should it be adopted.

The devastating effects of these proposed changes would and will be felt by loss of jobs in the coal mining industry, as well as associated industries. People that would be directly effected beyond just coal miners included include utility workers, truckers, railroad workers, machinists, State & Federal Mine Inspectors, etc. The list goes on and on. Indirectly the money produced from these high paying middle class jobs support whole communities including grocery stores, department stores, hospitals, schools, local taxes, etc. Do not forget the retired people and widows who depend on their pensions and medical benefits provided from these industries.

Another economic point is who will pay for the loss of jobs and the change in infrastructure required. The coal fired power plants under these proposed changes will in all likelihood shut down, just like the one in Masontown, PA. The cost to build alternatively fueled plants, retrofitting old plants for new fuel sources, and the laying of new gas pipelines would all be placed on the consumer in increased electricity

costs. We have been trying to climb our way out of a recession and have not gotten completely out of it yet. We do not need this added burden at this time.

All energy sources have their inherent problems:

Nuclear: Disposal of waste, Long Term Radiation Effects
Remember what happened at 3 Mile Island and recently in Japan

Wind: No wind no power, Unwanted eyesores- people do not want these windmills in Fayette County and certain areas of the East Coast.

Infrared: Incineration of low flying birds

Solar: No sun no power

Geothermal: Not feasible in metropolitan areas

These are but a few examples. Coal has been a proven source of power for over 150 years in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as the United States and needs to be a part of our energy policy now and into the future, not eliminated by regulations adopted too soon.

The world is an ever changing environment. New power plants in developing countries are coming on line daily with few pollution controls, if any. We need to first show the world our ingenuity and technological know-how to create economically sound proven ways to use coal in electrical production, not the adoption of regulations before their time.

An analogy would be the auto industry. Suppose that in 1970's we told the auto industry to meet the standards of air pollution they have to meet today within 5 years. Do you think they could? No. It would not have been possible. The effect on multiple industries would have been devastating. Well, these proposed changes will have the same effect upon the coal industry, related industries, and many communities.

CONCLUSION

The impact of your submission to the EPA will have a great impact upon their decision making process. People need to be considered in your decision. As a Respiratory Therapist my patients were of the utmost importance to me. In the medical field all factors are weighed carefully before a final decision and plan of treatment is made, just as in this case. When people are taken out of the equation the solution is not complete.

We are the best in innovative thinking and when economically feasible sound solutions are found without the elimination of coal, by all means implement them. Until that time arrives we do not need to implement these carbon reduction standards. These standards are not in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States at this time. Our National Security is at risk if we eliminate coal as a proven energy source from energy self sufficiency now and in the future. Do Not Forget The People's Economic Future Who Will Be Adversely Effected By The Elimination Of The Coal Industry.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.