

## **Brunner's Island Testimony** May 20, 2015

I thank the PA Department of Environmental Protection for hearing concerns of local residents who live near PPL's coal burning power plant. Brunner's Island came on line when I was a teenager. My family had recently moved into a new home in Bainbridge, and very quickly, black soot appeared on the window sills. As I cleaned it off, I attributed this nuisance to dirty air, not questioning the source. Today, over 50 years later, the black plumes of air released from the smoke stacks continue to land on yards and homes, as well as in our lungs. We now understand the source of the carbon emissions which settle on our landscape. I speak for many neighbors, in asking you to regulate and reduce these harmful levels. Our health has been adversely impacted for decades. We have had to breathe unhealthy air and have had to deal with widespread cancers and respiratory illnesses throughout the entire area, numbers documented by PA State Health Department and respected scientific studies and surveys.

PPL should want to set a higher, safer standard than has previously been published. We deserve to know, that the plant will not continue to send tons of dangerous particulates into our neighborhoods. The poor ratings of Lancaster Co. air is the result of emissions from many industrial sources and pollutants. It seems only prudent for the state of Pennsylvania to reduce any future contributors wherever possible. The Bainbridge area has been on the receiving end of tons of dangerous emissions from Brunner's Island for over 50 years, and cancer deaths and other health effects in that village population reflect these exposures. The Conoy Twp. incinerator has added to the cumulative doses people absorb. (Incinerators produce greater CO2 levels than a coal burning plant.) Our families are textbook cases of the latency periods for respiratory illnesses, associated with pollutants. Is our air quality in neighboring townships around the plant monitored by DEP or other government agencies?

Every industry weighs a risk/benefit ratio of health effects, and none is perfect in how it impacts a community. I would hope you will stand up to the pressure from industry and reduce the environmental imprint of this plant to minimal levels. The footprints Brunner's Island leaves on our area will exhibit whether decisions made were self-serving and short sighted or principled and far seeing. As a significant shareholder in and rate payer to PPL, I hope the electricity provider will continue to produce reliable energy and good service, but with cleaner air for its customers. Thank you for making the public's welfare your chief priority as you serve our community's best health interests.

Patricia J. Longenecker, 2094 Turnpike Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022, 717-367-2405