

From: Eric Cornwell
To: Shaikh, Furqan
Date: 8/14/2009 3:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: public comment on the LS Power Plant in Early County

fyi

>>> Thomas Smith 8/3/2009 10:39 AM >>>
Good morning - all.

Here's a citizen's comment for the record regarding Lingleaf Energy Associates, LLC project.

Thanks.

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>>> "Lee Martin" <mermaidlover@bellsouth.net> 08/01/09 11:06 AM >>>
Gentlemen,

Please allow me to make a few comments about the proposed coal fired power plant in Early County to be built by LS Power. First of all, LS Power is not even a Georgia company! Moreover, the workers hired to build it will not be hard working Georgians and with our state unemployment rate above 10%, I find it unconscionable that my governmental permitting company would have approved this plant. Our neighboring state of Florida will not allow any more coal fired power plants to be built because they are so polluting and unhealthy to their citizens. Why are Georgia's environmental permitting (and protective) agencies not as concerned for Georgians' health as Florida's?

I live in Macon, Georgia near Georgia Power's Plant Scherer, one of the dirtiest coal fired power plants in the nation, if not North America. Plant Scherer emits over 1700 lbs of mercury into the air every year. That's the largest amount of mercury emitted by any industry, not just power plants, in the state. Plant Branch near Milledgeville is only 35 miles away. They are the third largest emitter of mercury. Bibb County (Macon) has three fish advisories- one at Lake Tobosofkee and two for the Ocmulgee River, which is the source of our city's drinking water, I might add. According to a recent study, over 760,000 babies are born in the U.S. every year at risk of mercury poisoning from their mother's milk.

Our county is, and has been for some time, in non-attainment for dirty and unhealthy air. In 2004, Macon had the 24th dirtiest air in the U.S! For the last 10+ years the EPD has refused to make Plant Scherer comply with the Clean Air Act or prosecute the New Source Review violation lawsuit filed by the Clinton administration. Is there any reason I should believe that Georgia's EPD would do any different should LS Power commit a violation? Of course not!

The good citizens of Tennessee have just suffered through one of the top five environmental disasters ever to occur in the U.S. with their recent spill of coal ash. Plant Scherer's massive storage ash ponds are within spitting distance of the Ocmulgee River, once again, the source of Macon's drinking water. I'm sure with the massive amounts of water required to cool the towers of the proposed LS Power Plant, an ash spill at the plant would be an unprecedented disaster to the farming, hunting and fishing communities in southwest Georgia.

Dr. Robert Bullard of Clark University, wrote a great book called "Dumping in Dixie." It ponders the question: why do polluting companies always choose poor communities to build their unhealthy plants? Perhaps the citizens of Early County need to ask their state permitting agencies- and in particular, their elected officials- the same question.

Lee Martin

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August 1, 2009