

December 17, 2012

Via email: Stephen.Ours@dc.gov

Stephen S. Ours
Chief Permitting Branch
Air Quality Division
District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002



Re: Capitol Power Plant Proposed Air Quality Permits

Dear Mr. Ours:

The DC Environmental Network, founded in 1996 — is working toward a vision of rebuilding Washington, DC's neighborhoods and communities for long-term economic stability — accomplishing this by protecting and restoring the Capital City's urban environment.

We urge you to completely bring an end to the U.S. Capitol's reliance on coal burning at the Capitol Power Plant. Ending coal use at the Capitol Power Plant is a critical component of greening the Capitol. Ending coal use at the Capitol Power Plant would represent a significant down payment in protecting the health of District residents. Ending coal use in our capitol city would also be consistent with the broad goals and spirit of Mayor Gray's Sustainable DC initiative and would help continue the District's progress towards sustainability.

Soot and smog pollution caused by the burning of coal are linked to chronic and acute health problems. They cause increased rates of asthma attacks, heart disease and lung cancer, as well as premature death. At greatest risk are our most vulnerable residents, young children and the elderly. And not only are children suffering from record levels of asthma, asthma-related illness is the leading cause of school absenteeism nationwide. In short, reducing air pollution allows our kids to play outside safely, and makes them healthier and smarter.

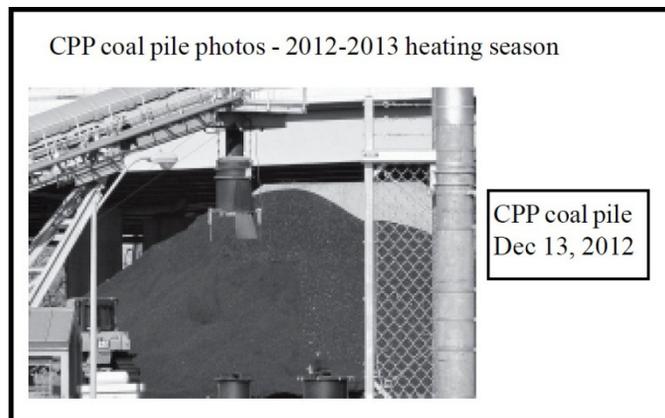


Photo by Sierra Club, Washington, DC

In the last few years we have made progress reducing the amount of coal used at the Capitol Power Plant. Now is the time to finish this critical effort and end this indefensible and archaic practice in the age of climate change.

Sincerely,

Brent Blackwelder
President Emeritus
Friends of the Earth

Chris Weiss
Executive Director
DC Environmental Network