



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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January 23, 2006

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to express support for Pennsylvania's implementation of the U.S. EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). These rules were promulgated in March 2005 to assist states in meeting EPA's new ozone and fine particulate matter standards and to reduce utility emissions of mercury.

The IBEW has participated in recent stakeholder meetings convened by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to explore a potential Pennsylvania mercury rule more stringent than the EPA rule. In this process, we have expressed our support for implementation of the EPA mercury rule and opposition to a more stringent state regulation.

EPA's rule requires a 64% reduction of mercury emissions from Pennsylvania generating units by 2010 and an 86% reduction from 1999 emission levels by 2018. This level of control translates to a 94% reduction of mercury contained in the coals burned by Pennsylvania generating units.

IBEW members share the apprehensions that have been expressed by many stakeholders in the DEP process, including the United Mine Workers, about the potential adverse impacts on jobs and electric reliability if Pennsylvania regulations go beyond the requirements of EPA's CAIR and mercury rules. Many of our members work at smaller and older power plants that may close if confronted with inflexible emission control mandates.

Our concerns have been heightened by a recent proposal from Governor Blagojevich of Illinois to require utility systems to reduce mercury emissions by 90% by 2009. IBEW members and the Illinois AFL-CIO are opposing this extreme proposal and will work to avoid any adverse impacts on our members in Illinois.

We are sensitive to the public health concerns surrounding mercury contamination in fish. However, two facts presented in the DEP stakeholder process suggest that the EPA mercury rule strikes the appropriate balance between public health protection and energy costs.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Third District

Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
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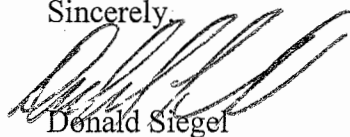
First, more than 80% of the mercury consumed by Americans comes from ocean and other saltwater fish that would not be affected by reductions of U.S. utility mercury emissions. Second, EPA modeling studies (see attached) indicate that the mercury deposition reductions expected in Pennsylvania under the EPA rules will closely approximate those resulting from a hypothetical "zero-out" elimination of all mercury emissions from U.S. power plants. We therefore doubt that a Pennsylvania mercury rule would have any more beneficial effect than the EPA rule on the reduction of mercury exposure or on the number of "fish advisories" in Pennsylvania waters.

We also understand that Pennsylvania, along with other states of the Northeast Ozone Transport Commission, is considering reductions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides exceeding the requirements of the EPA CAIR rule. Pennsylvania electric generators must compete in interstate markets based on economic dispatch. Raising the costs of generation in Pennsylvania beyond what is required to meet EPA's rules will not serve your Administration's interests in preserving our shrinking manufacturing base. Moreover, the OTC has not advanced any evidence that proposed "CAIR-Plus" emission controls are needed to meet EPA's air quality standards in Pennsylvania.

IBEW members support and encourage your Administration's efforts to promote clean energy development such as the EDGE initiative. However, we remain concerned that proposals to go beyond EPA's rules would impede, rather than foster, the development of new energy infrastructure, while creating competitive disadvantages for the Commonwealth's economy. This is particularly true when nearby states, such as Ohio and Indiana where industrial and residential electric rates are well below those in Pennsylvania, plan to comply with EPA's CAIR and mercury rules.

I will appreciate your attention to these issues, and would be pleased to meet with you or your staff for a further discussion of labor's perspectives.

Sincerely,



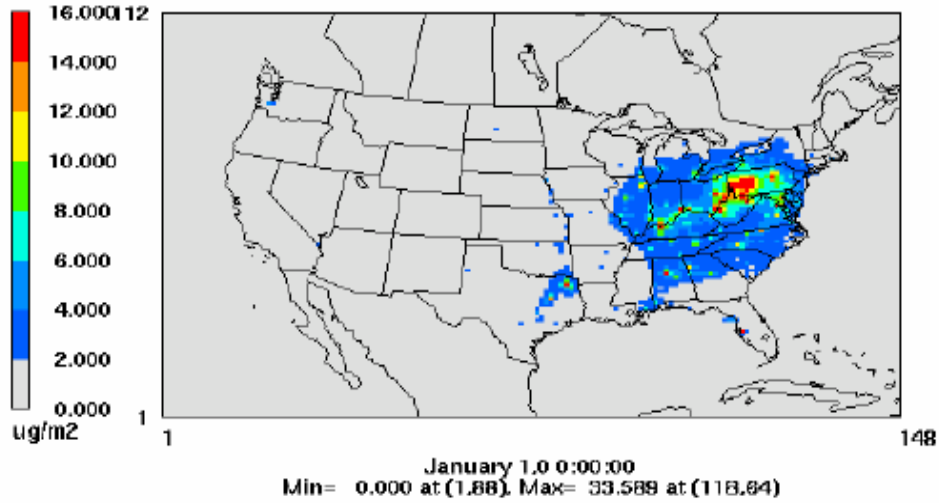
Donald Siegel  
International Vice President

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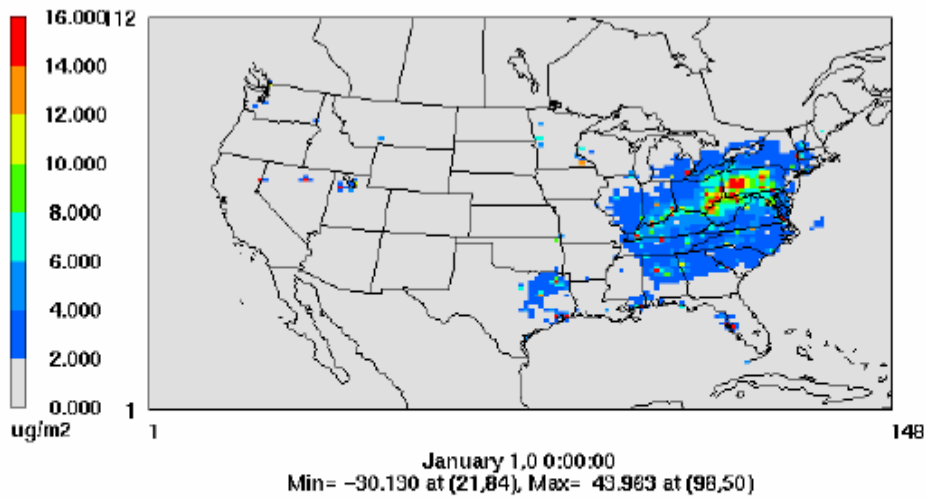
Attachment

cc: William M. George, President, PA AFL-CIO  
Joseph F. Lohman, International Vice President, IBEW Sixth District  
Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Cecil E. Roberts, President, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA)

**Attachment**  
**Excerpts from U.S. EPA Final Regulatory Impact Analysis**  
**of the Clean Air Mercury Rule (March 2005)**



**Figure 8-3. Decrease in Total Mercury Deposition with Power Plant Zero-Out Simulation: 2001**



**Figure 8-4. Change in Total Mercury Deposition for All Sources: 2020 (with CAIR) Relative to 2001**