

## Electric Power Generation Association testifies on mercury emissions management in Pennsylvania

In testimony before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Environmental Resources and Energy Committee today, Douglas Biden, President of the Electric Power Generation Association (EPGA), outlined the electric industry's views on mercury management in Pennsylvania.

Throughout his testimony, Mr. Biden stressed that EPGA members support and are committed to strict regulations that would require Pennsylvania power plants to reduce mercury emissions in accordance with federally mandated rules.

The new federal environmental regulations outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency require states to achieve a 70 percent reduction in mercury emissions by 2018. However, Pennsylvania is subject to the highest reduction standard in the nation -- a reduction of 86 percent by 2018 -- due in large part to the mercury content of Pennsylvania coal.

"Reducing mercury emissions in Pennsylvania by 86 percent will be a significant challenge, but as an industry we are committed to meeting it," stated Biden.

However, last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection stated its intent to impose more stringent mercury emission regulations on Pennsylvania's coal-fired power plants. The state's proposed rules would require a 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions by 2015.

Mr. Biden's testimony addressed concerns that the state's proposed rules may place Pennsylvania's power plants at a competitive disadvantage, thus negatively impacting the state's economy. Pennsylvania plants compete in the wholesale electricity market against plants in other states.

"Our industry is committed to working with DEP to ensure that if the state's rules are imposed, the concerns about Pennsylvania's competitive disadvantage are addressed," stated Biden. "Our goal is to balance the protection of the environment and the protection of Pennsylvania's economy."

"Informational meetings such as this one are important for policy makers to fully understand the complexity of the issue," added Biden. "Due to potentially significant economic consequences for the Commonwealth, the General Assembly must be actively involved in this type of policy issue by participating in the development of such standards and ensuring the necessary compliance."

Note: For a complete transcript of Douglas Biden's testimony before the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, please contact EPGA at 717.909.3742.

*The Electric Power Generation Association is a regional trade association of major electric generating companies that supply wholesale power in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Collectively, EPGA companies own and operate more than 122,000 megawatts of generating capacity, more than half of which is located in the mid-Atlantic region. EPGA members include: Allegheny Energy Supply; Edison Mission Group; Exelon Generation; FirstEnergy Generation Corp.; PPL Generation, LLC; Reliant Energy; Cogentrix Energy, Inc.; Mirant Corporation and UGI Development Company.*