

From: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Ben Schaibly
<bensch5@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:12 PM
To: Airpermits, AOC (DDOE)
Subject: RE: Capitol Power Plant

Feb 13, 2013

Stephen Ours

Dear Ours,

I am writing in connection with the District Department of the Environment's consideration of proposed air quality permits for the Capitol Power Plant. I urge your administration to reject the permit application submitted by the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) at in the interest of public health. After the AOC completes the promised changes in technology from coal burning to natural gas and alternative energy sources (solar and geothermal would be nice), I think the permit should be approved. The natural gas-fired cogeneration facility proposed for the generation of electricity for the Capitol complex and the Hill seems like an efficient idea in the grand scheme of things.

As you know, the Congress has been burning coal at the Plant for over 100 years. Though they promised four years ago to cease all coal burning promptly and permanently, they reneged on that promise. Coal was burned there all last winter and again this winter. As you may be aware, the use of coal increases as the temperature drops and spikes sharply when temperatures drop into the teens and single digits. There are no 'scrubbers' on the low stacks currently spewing coal dust into the air on Capitol Hill. Indeed the stacks would never be approved by current EPA code standards. They are grandfathered, having been built early in the previous century.

The Department of the Environment has authority, through the permitting process, to lower the allowed pollution emissions such that coal cannot be legally burned at the plant. It should do so.

Certainly you -- the architect of the City's new "Sustainable DC" initiative understand that Washington cannot be sustainable as long as coal is being burned for power in the heart of our residential neighborhoods. I am therefore calling on you to join with Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Councilmember Tommy Wells, and residents of the "ground zero" neighborhoods in calling for a prompt, complete and permanent end to the burning of coal at the facility.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ben Schaibly
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