

CPS Air Pollution Costs You Money!

City Public Service plans to build a 750-megawatt power plant in San Antonio. This plant would be powered by coal—one of the **dirtiest sources of energy** in the country.

CPS claims the plant will save money for ratepayers.

But CPS won't tell you the "hidden costs" of the plant:

It costs us money.

If pollution levels continue to increase in San Antonio, auto-emissions testing will be required in Bexar County, raising the cost of everyone's vehicle inspection. At **\$27** per registered vehicle, this means an additional burden of **\$40 million dollars** per year for San Antonio vehicle owners.



Coal may seem cheap now, but utility companies will gouge their customers in the future when they are forced to clean up the dirty emissions caused by coal plants. Even CPS has predicted that the EPA is likely to impose a carbon dioxide (CO₂) tax in the coming years. Coal-fired power plants release about twice as much CO₂ as natural gas plants. Renewable sources of energy like wind or solar are essentially CO₂-free.

It costs us jobs.



One reason Toyota chose San Antonio as the site for its new Tundra plant was that its first choice, Dallas, fails to comply with EPA clean air standards. Increasing pollution from coal will jeopardize San Antonio's chances to attract new business and **could prevent thousands of new jobs from coming to the city.**

We estimate that CPS will spend **between \$68 million and \$95 million** each year just to purchase and transport coal from Wyoming to fire its new plant. Increasing energy efficiency or purchasing more wind power from West Texas would reduce local pollution, create more jobs for Texas, and keep revenues from being sent out of state. Think of how we could spend this money at home!

It costs us our health.

Power plant pollution causes an estimated **2,410 asthma attacks** and **93 premature deaths** per year in the San Antonio area, according to "Death, Disease and Dirty Power" (2000). The study also attributed 20,500 workdays lost due to illness from power plant emissions. Assuming a base pay of \$10 per hour, this means that air pollution costs San Antonio **\$1.64 million** dollars in lost work each year.

More air pollution in San Antonio will mean more cases of asthma, lung disease, and other health problems that cost taxpayers millions of dollars per year. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of dirty air.

Coal-fired plants emit mercury, lead, and other dangerous toxins which cause learning disabilities in children. Educating a child with learning disabilities can cost up to **\$50,000 per child per year. Taxpayers, not CPS, pay this cost.**



If CPS tells you its coal-fired plant will save you money, think again!

What can I do?

- Ask for a public meeting. This is a time for you to express your concerns about this plant
- Ask the City Council and the CPS board to **just say no** to the plant
- Write letters to the San Antonio Express News editor and mention your concerns
- Be a party to the contested case and ask for a formal hearing
- Go to www.windtricity.com and sign up for CPS' renewable energy program

For more information, go to
www.citizen.org/texas
www.seedcoalition.org
www.neighborhoodlink.com/sat/jeffersonheights
www.smartgrowthsa.org
www.cleanwateraction.org/tx
www.sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/alamo

