

Power Plants and Mercury: How This Dangerous Duo Affects You

What You Should Know:

- Power Plants are the largest Mercury Polluter that remain UNCONTROLLED in the U.S.
- The locations of coal-fired power plants in Texas correspond with several bodies of water listed in the Texas Department of Health's Fish Consumption and Advisories and Bans of 2003.
- Electric and coal industries are pressuring EPA to do as little as possible towards regulating mercury emissions and lack even the most basic environmental safeguards.
- **The proposed coal power plant in San Antonio will emit an estimated 680 pounds of mercury.**

The Toxic Effects of Mercury:

- High levels of Mercury can be DEADLY.
- At lower levels Mercury has been linked to nervous system problems in children and cardiovascular problems in adults.
- 1 out of 12 U.S. women of childbearing age have unsafe levels of mercury in their blood putting over 300,000 newborns at risk of death, cerebral palsy and mental retardation.
- Widespread mercury pollution threatens businesses, restaurants, and grocery stores across the country that relies on fishing including the \$116 billion sport fishing industry.

How are People Exposed to Mercury?

- About half of the coal-burning power plants in the U.S. dump their wastes in surface impoundments or ponds.
- Once in the water, Mercury can be transformed into the toxic form methyl mercury.
- People are exposed to methyl mercury almost entirely by eating contaminated fish and wildlife that are at the top of aquatic food chains.
- Contamination of our lakes and rivers from Mercury destroys food chains. Eleven counties in Texas are under fish advisories because of Mercury contamination.



A Real Solution: Eliminate Mercury at the Source

- Urge your officials to act without further delay to cut mercury emissions. Important Texas Congressmen to contact: Joe Barton, Charles Gonzalez, Ralph Hall, Gene Green.
- Help us demonstrate that Americans support the strongest possible mercury rules.
- Support the end to manufacturing and use of mercury-containing products.
- Promote safe disposal of mercury waste.
- **Take part to help publicize the impacts of toxic mercury on babies and young children with the "Mothers Mad about Mercury Rally" in Dallas on March 13 at EPA Headquarters at 11 AM. Followed by a 1PM citizen hearing at the Dallas Public Library.**
- Help support your local coalition forces to fight the dumping of Mercury into our waters.
- For further information visit: www.seedcoalition.org, www.uspirg.org, www.catf.us, or www.healthyfish.net.

