

CHARLIE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
VICTORIA, TEXAS 77905

[REDACTED]
December 9, 2010

Mark Vickery
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Austin, Texas

FAX: 512-239-3939

Dear Mr. Vickery:

I own ranch property in Victoria County within three miles of the Coletto Creek coal-fired power plant located in Goliad County and I am filing a formal air pollution complaint against the Coletto Creek power plant for the toxic sulfur dioxide pollution it dumps into the air that has been harming my property over a long period of time. My complaint is justified because I have noticed for over 20 years how the Coletto Creek power plant's sulfur dioxide has been damaging hundreds of the trees on our property - live oaks, white oaks and pecans - since the power plant began operating in the early 1980s by dumping its sulfur toxins into our air. Our air quality changed overnight due to the plant.

I am worried about the health and environmental problems from burning coal. Since the first Coletto Creek plant has been there, we've noticed the live oaks, white oaks, pecans and other trees are having problems. Most of the white oak trees are already dead. The surviving trees don't have as much foliage and they're becoming more diseased I believe from the plant's sulfur dioxide weakening the trees over time. Hundreds of oaks and pecan trees have already died and many other trees are dying more slowly with some it almost seems overnight. The mercury is also way too high in the lake and that is a big concern if you eat fish out of Coletto Creek or the lake like I do.

My family has owned this land for 160 years and we had no problems with trees being polluted on the ranch before the Coletto Creek power plant started to burn coal next door. We had no sulfur dioxide pollution problems before Coletto Creek was there.

I believe the Coletto Creek's sulfur dioxide pollution from the existing plant is so unsafe that it is killing the live oaks and pecan trees on my property, but my concerns were totally ignored by the TCEQ during the contested case permit hearing last spring when the TCEQ said it's ok for Coletto Creek to add a second plant and dump another 1,753 tons of new sulfur dioxide into our air every year.

We have also watched how other property around the ranch has suffered pollution damage to our fences, fence posts, roofs, farm equipment, vehicles and anything the sulfur dioxide lands on its eats up. The TCEQ has ignored all these concerns that I attempted to raise last spring in the Coletto Creek contested case hearing. The report in the Austin newspaper last week mentioned acid effects of the sulfur dioxide and I believe the Coletto Creek power plant has caused lots of acid damage to our property, but I don't believe the TCEQ has ever investigated these problems around the Coletto Creek plant.

The sulfur dioxide pollution from the Coletto Creek plant has been a problem for me and my family because the plant has no scrubber to reduce its sulfur dioxide pollution and emits too much of the toxin. In spite of my requests, the Coletto Creek plant has refused to add a scrubber for thirty years and the TCEQ has allowed it to dump huge quantities of sulfur pollution in our community in Goliad and Victoria Counties.

I have tried to complain about the sulfur dioxide pollution from Coletto Creek for at least 20 years, including last spring in the contested case hearing on a second coal-burning unit at Coletto Creek, but the TCEQ has never investigated the sulfur dioxide damage to my property. I believe the TCEQ needs to do its job and start protecting our property from the power plant by investigating my air pollution complaint.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie [REDACTED]

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