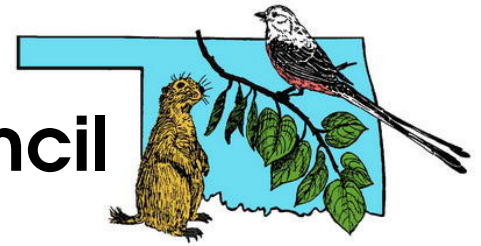


Oklahoma Audubon Council



11224 S. 83 E. Avenue, Bixby, OK 74008

January 15, 2007

Mr. Morris Moffett
Department of Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

Re: January 17, 2007 Air Quality Council Meeting

Dear Mr. Moffett,

The Oklahoma Audubon Council, representing the 3,000 members of local Audubon Society chapters throughout our state, is concerned with the proposal to add a new Subchapter 44 to the Oklahoma Administrative Code to incorporate by reference the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). We ask that this item be tabled to allow time for more information about stronger air quality rules to be considered.

As I am sure you are aware, there are many who feel the federal CAMR is far too lenient and violates the Clean Air Act. Many other states have adopted or plan to adopt more stringent regulation and 15 states are litigating against EPA on the matter. A number of other organizations have joined this litigation, including the American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. They all say that the mercury rule fails to meet the stringent standards the Clean Air Act sets for protecting public health.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is also concerned with this issue, and has proposed a plan for a 90 percent reduction in mercury emissions. She has said "I have long-argued that EPA used faulty science in order to justify an insufficient mercury rule, and these studies prove it. EPA misrepresented the mercury problem based on computer data which had not been peer-reviewed, and then put out a rule which does not account for mercury hotspots and which places children and pregnant women at risk."

We understand that more coal plants will be built, but they need to use the latest technologies that minimizes their impact on our environment and the health of Oklahoma's citizens. As more states adopt more restrictive mercury rules, and enact rules which do not accept the cap and trade provisions of CAMR, those states with less restrictive rules will become targets for power companies that wish to build dirty coal plants, without the latest (and more expensive) equipment minimizing mercury and other emissions.

We feel it is imperative that Oklahoma adopt rules that protect us all and will keep us at the forefront of cleanest possible energy, rather than become the preferred location for dirty energy.

Sincerely,

John Kennington, Chair
Oklahoma Audubon Council
918-809-6325
johnkennington@cox.net