

From: John Austin [mailto:austin4102000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2006 8:41 AM
To: Amirikian Ronald A. (DNREC)
Subject: Re: FW: Multi-Pollutant Regulation - 3/9 Meeting Minutes

Regarding scope of the regulation:
The Delaware Energy Task Force report lists:
DuPont Seaford 27MW - Coal
NGR Energy Center Kraft Foods - Coal & natural gas
Wouldn't both of these be subject to the regulation?????

When does Delaware formally accept or opt out of mercury trading in the CAMR?

What is the allocation between Indian River and Edge Moor under the Clean Air Mercury Rule? Is it 50/50 or 67/33 as in EPA background?

I have not found the Motiva Permit on the web. What (if any) are its IGCC mercury limits?

As for comments on the meeting - the following was sent to News Journal and Ali --

Your report fails to indicate that NGR and Connective proposal of 70% sulfur dioxide and 40% nitrogen oxides reductions is a request to be placed at a regulatory advantage to similar plants in neighboring states.

New Jersey regulations enacted in 2004 if applied to 2004 Indian River data would achieve a 89.1% reduction of SO₂, 71.5% NO_x, 87.8% reduction in Mercury, and 90% reduction in particulate matter. The Maryland Healthy Air Act seeks 83% by 2010, 90% by 2015 for SO₂, 67% by 2010, 80% by 2015 for NO₂, and 90% mercury reduction by 2010. Even the Power Industry written Maryland Clean Power Act numbers would be for Indian River an 83.7% cut in SO₂, 71.5% cut in NO_x, and 80% by 2010, 90% by 2015 cuts in mercury emissions.

Reasonable regulations in line with other states would be 90% reduction of SO₂, Mercury and Particulate Matter, and an 80% cut in NO_x.

To achieve these emission reductions the facilities have several options, add-on emission controls, conversion to IGCC firing, or installation of a Power span ECO (electrolytic catalyzed oxidation) unit. Beyond the costs of construction, operation of conventional controls would raise the cost of production at Indian River from \$33.07/MWh (SNL 1/18/2005) to approximately \$46.6/MWh, an IGCC \$46-48/MWh (EPRI 2004 -www.4cleanair.org/Idaho/Thompson.pdf). Still well in the range of other NRG sites. Vienna which is oil fired has production costs of \$84.98/MWh (SNL HTML -<http://www1.sn1.com/products/samples/GMW/sample1.pdf>). Any mention of shutdown is just a veiled threat. The plants would remain economically viable and highly profitable. A \$100 million spent on emission control overall pails beside the health costs of continued emissions.

Under the stalled Bush Administration Clear Skies Act, EPA states the health benefits in Delaware would total \$420 million (\$81 million under the alternative estimate) and include 70 fewer premature deaths from reduction in sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxides, and mercury. The

benefits would result from Delaware sources reducing emissions of SO₂ by 36%, NO_x 27%, and mercury by 54% by 2020.1[1]The EPA's Abt Associates' report further estimates that fine particulate pollution from power plants shortens the lives of 95 Delaware residents each year, and also causes 13,106 lost work days, 87 hospitalizations and 2,256 asthma attacks every year, 99 of which are so severe they require emergency room visits.2[2]

It should come as no surprise to you, that years of exposure to these pollutants has had a marked impact on the health of the citizens of Delaware. The Delaware Department of Health reports that about 46,000 adult Delawareans are estimated to have asthma, and as many 72,000 have had asthma at some time during their lives. A new report on asthma in Delaware estimates that total direct charges for asthma-related health care could be between \$25 and \$30 million a year. In the Delaware Youth Risk Behavior survey for 2003, about 19% of high school students reported having been diagnosed with asthma; 6.5% said they had an asthma attack in the past 12 months.3[3]Based on national rates the American Lung Association estimates 16,922 pediatric asthma cases in Delaware in the under 18 population of 198,842 – just 8.5%.4[4]

After years of unabated pollution, I can assure you that the voters of Sussex are now very aware of the health impacts that the Indian River facility has caused or aggravated. There is a cost to burning coal and we pay it every day in Delaware – acid rain, tons of nitrates contaminate the groundwater, ozone advisories and fish that are unsafe to eat.

As it now stands, the power companies get the profits and we get the costs. After years of uncontrolled pollution, these facilities owe it to the people of Delaware to install technologies to limit emissions to the lowest achievable levels. Delaware deserves nothing less.

Regards,

John J. Austin, Jr.
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

1[1]<http://www.epa.gov/air/clearskies/state/de.html>

2[2]<http://cta.policy.net/regional/de/>

3[3]<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/asthma.html>

4[4]http://lungaction.org/reports/SOTA05_groupsatrisk.html?geo_area_id=10