

January 11, 2006

Mr. Guy Gorney  
President  
Midwest Generation  
440 South LaSalle St., Suite 3500  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Mr. Thomas F. Farrell II  
President and CEO  
Dominion Energy  
120 Tredegar Street Richmond, VA 23219

Mr. Gary L. Rainwater  
Chairman, President and CEO  
Ameren UE  
1901 Chouteau Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63166

Mr. Bruce Williamson  
Chairman / CEO Dynegy Inc.  
1000 Louisiana St.  
Suite 5800  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Sirs:

As children's advocates and medical and public health professionals, we have dedicated our lives to creating a strong, healthy future for Illinois children and families. That's why we support Governor Blagojevich's plan to reduce mercury pollution from coal plants in Illinois by 90 percent by June 30, 2009.

We are writing to you as the chief executive officer of Midwest Generation to protect children's health and the environment by supporting the Governor's mercury pollution reduction plan. This is the right thing to do. Midwest Generation should lead the nation in its efforts to serve and protect health of Illinois citizens through socially responsible use of its assets. We urge you to join the Governor and us in fully supporting this plan and implementing the rules to reduce mercury pollution from Midwest Generation's coal plants by 90 percent by June 30, 2009.

Sadly, Illinois ranks among the highest states in the nation for severe concentrations of mercury pollution, or "hot spots." Midwest Generation's coal plants are among the largest sources of mercury pollution in Illinois and the Great Lakes. Your company bears part of the responsibility for the high level of mercury in Lake Michigan and Illinois' inland rivers and lakes and the resulting tragic impacts on public health.

The harmful effects of mercury pollution are well known. Coal plants are responsible for about 60 percent of the mercury pollution in the Great Lakes states. Modern pollution control technology can capture 90 percent or more of mercury pollution.

We know the many health problems related to mercury. Mercury is a neurotoxin. It can pass through a pregnant women's placenta and harm fetal brain development. Exposure to mercury in the early stages of human development can cause neurological and brain damage, including reduced cognitive abilities and other developmental problems. Research suggests that these impacts are permanent.

Estimates are that six to 10 percent of U.S. women of childbearing ages have a mercury level high enough to put a fetus at an increased risk for developmental problems from mercury poisoning, which can burden a child throughout life by limiting opportunities. That translates to 230,000 to 410,000 babies born at-risk annually.

These impacts also create extra costs for the health care and education systems. A recent study by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York estimates that, based on current mercury levels, \$8.7 billion annually will be lost in unrealized earnings by U.S. children due to reductions in intelligence from mercury pollution. Of this total, \$1.3 billion year is attributable to mercury pollution from American power plants.

We know that coal plants are the largest source of the mercury pollution, which gets into our lakes, rivers and streams and goes up the food chain into fish. The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued “fish advisories” warning everyone – especially pregnant women and women of childbearing ages – to severely limit their consumption of fish from Illinois’ rivers, inland lakes and Lake Michigan. These health advisories apply to every single stream, river and lake in Illinois.

At the same time, researchers have found an association between fish consumption and high infant cognition, making it beneficial for pregnant women to eat fish, provided they are not contaminated. Clearly, the solution should not be restricting women’s diets, but reducing mercury pollution.

Governor Blagojevich’s plan will lower the mercury exposure for more than 100,000 women of childbearing age in Illinois whose blood mercury levels already may exceed the federal recommended limit. Illinois now has a chance to lead the nation in protecting future generations of our children from mercury poisoning.

We call on you as CEO of Midwest Generation, along with the CEOs of Ameren, Dominion Energy and Dynegy, to be socially responsible corporate citizens by supporting the Governor’s mercury pollution reduction plan to protect our children’s health and our environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Ed Pont, M.D., F.A.A.P., President-Elect  
Scott G. Allen, Executive Director  
*Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics*  
1358 W. Randolph, Suite 2 East  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Helen Binns, M.D., M.P.H.\*  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine,  
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University  
Director, Pediatric Practice Research Group,  
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago Illinois

Lynda DeLafourge  
Co-Director  
*Citizen Action Illinois*  
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 605  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Lee Francis, M.D., M.P.H.  
Board President  
*Physicians for Social Responsibility*  
Chicago Chapter  
4750 N. Sheridan, #439  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Joseph M. Harrington  
Executive Director  
*Center for African American Health*  
45 East 111<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60628

Lawrence U. Haspel, D.O., F.A.C.C.  
Senior Vice President  
*Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council*  
222 South Riverside Plaza  
Suite 1900  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Ms. Liu Hong  
Executive Director  
*Asian Health Coalition of Illinois*  
4753 N. Broadway, Suite 614  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Daniel Hryhorczuk, M.D., M.P.H. \*  
Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health  
2121 W. Taylor  
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Daniel Johnson, M.D.  
Medical Director  
*Sinai Children's Hospital*  
15th Street and California Ave., F444  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Vincent Keenan, M.P.H., President  
*Gilead Outreach and Referral Center*  
222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1900  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Howard Learner, Executive Director  
Meleah Geertsma, J.D., M.P.H.  
*Environmental Law and Policy Center*  
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1300  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Fredric D. Leary, M.D.  
President  
*Illinois Academy of Family Physicians*  
4756 Main Street  
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Laura Leon  
Acting Executive Director  
*Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition*  
1256 W. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60622

James R. Nelson, M.S.  
Executive Director  
*Illinois Public Health Association*  
223 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Charles A. Nozicka, M.D.  
Executive Director  
*Alexian Pediatric Center of Excellence*  
1555 Barrington Road  
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60194

Javette Orgain, M.D.  
Chairman  
*African American Healthcare Council*  
Post Office Box 6672  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Nancy Shier, Director  
*Kids Public Education and Policy Project (Kids PEPP)*  
*Ounce of Prevention Fund*  
122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2050  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Jennifer Schott, M.D. \*  
Pediatrician, Practice of Drs. Levy and O'Brien  
400 Lake Cook Road  
Deerfield, Illinois 60015  
Jerome Stermer  
President

*Voices for Illinois Children*  
208 S. LaSalle Street, #1490  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1103

Ray Vazquez  
Executive Vice President of Human Services  
*YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago*  
810 North Dearborn  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Quentin Young, M.D., Chairman  
*Health and Medicine Policy Research Group*  
29 East Madison Street, Suite 602  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

\*Organizational affiliations listed for identification purposes only