

LAURA MILLER
MAYOR



CITY OF DALLAS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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TEXAS-SIZED DISPUTE TO TAKE PLACE OVER LONE STAR STATE'S POWER *Coalition of Texas Mayors and County Judges to Testify in Hearings on Coal Plant Permits*

- WHAT:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Public Hearing on TXU's Monticello Plant Application
- WHEN:** **TODAY-Monday, November 27th at 2:00 P.M.**
- WHERE:** Mount Pleasant Civic Center
1800 North Jefferson Ave. Mount Pleasant, TX 74455
- WHO:** **Dallas Mayor Laura Miller**
Steve Susman, Susman Godfrey LLP
Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition (TCACC)

MORE: There is a Texas-sized dispute going on in the Lone Star State over balancing the need for power and the health of our environment. The current question is whether 17 coal-fired power plants, fast-tracked through the state permitting system, will be approved with yesterday's emission controls, or will the Mayors of Dallas, Houston and 20 other cities and counties representing 7 million citizens across the State of Texas be successful in negotiating cleaner plants. This collective group of cities and counties has formed the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition (TCACC) to formally intervene in the permitting process and push for more modern, cleaner alternatives to the proposed coal burning.

The Coalition also questions the need for all 17 plants, which would double the total number of plants in Texas. The health, environmental and economic development impacts of such an expansion is also being challenged by the Coalition.

Dallas Mayor Laura Miller has embraced this issue and visited numerous small towns and counties in Texas to get their participation in the permit process. On November 27th, the first two power plant permit hearings will be held at the

same time in two different small East Texas communities that will be home to the proposed coal-burning plants.

The Coalition will split its efforts to attend both hearings. Mayor Miller will attend the hearing on TXU's Monticello application in Mount Pleasant, Texas along with Steve Susman, founding partner of Susman Godfrey LLP which is representing the TCACC on a pro bono basis. Representatives from the TCACC and Susman Godfrey will also attend the hearing on TXU's Martin Lake application at 2pm at the Henderson Community Center, 302 Fair Park Avenue, Henderson, TX 75654.

A third public hearing is scheduled for 10 am on the Big Brown application on Tuesday, November 28th in Fairfield, Texas at the Fairfield Independent School District Auditorium, 615 Post Oak Road. Representatives from the TCACC and Susman Godfrey will attend that hearing.

BACKGROUND

The TCACC acknowledges that the utility companies need to provide more electricity, and that they need to build more power plants to do that. But there are companies, mainly outside Texas, that are using more modern, cleaner technologies than coal-burning to do it. The Coalition will present these alternatives to the TCEQ for its consideration. (Coal gasification, for example, is the cleanest coal-burning technology available and could cut emissions significantly, yet in a December ruling the TCEQ said Texas utility companies do not have to consider this option.)

“Seventeen new plants are a lot, considering we have only 18 now. And those 18 have helped Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston fall out of compliance with federal environmental laws. Austin, San Antonio and Longview are close behind,” says Dallas Mayor Laura Miller.

“What's the point of cities screwing in low-wattage light bulbs and buying natural-gas-fueled police cars if you've got the soot from 17 new coal plants billowing your way? Especially when you consider the condition of our current plants,” continued Miller.

The electric companies say that these new technologies are unreliable and too expensive, and that if the State mandates cleaner plants, there will be job losses, a big blow to the economy and dramatically higher electricity bills.

“Sounds like automakers in the 1970s, facing emissions controls. It didn't happen,” Miller responds.

TEXAS—At A Glance

In a national study released this summer:

- Texas ranked No. 1 in mercury emissions from power plants
- Five of the 10 worst plants for mercury are in Texas (TXU's Martin Lake is #1, Monticello #4, Big Brown #6)
- Texas contributes 10% of all the mercury emissions in the country

(“Dirty Kilowatts: America's Most Polluting Power Plants”, *Environmental Integrity Project*, July 2006)

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