

Concerned about the proposed new coal plant at Big Stone?

Ready to make your voice heard?

Here are some ideas for comments (in person or in writing) on the proposed Big Stone II coal plant to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Please see the Clean Water Action fact sheet for additional information.

1. Costs on ratepayers and residents associated with increased healthcare, environmental, or economic costs from the impacts of air pollution
2. Impact of air pollution on the health of surrounding communities: global warming gases, ozone precursors that contribute to regional haze, particulate matter that increases the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses
3. Impact of mercury contamination on the health of surrounding communities
4. Effectiveness rates of various mercury control technologies
5. Costs on ratepayers and citizens of future carbon regulations to reduce global warming gases
6. Alternatives to coal-burning power plant: economic development opportunities of wind; real cost of new coal plant versus wind project; cost of burning biomass versus coal
7. Environmental, health, and economic impact of the disposal of coal waste ash
8. Thorough analysis of plant's impact on water: impact on fish and aquatic ecosystems of Big Stone Lake and Minnesota River
9. Economic impact on Big Stone Lake area: ability of the area to continue to attract sportspeople, hunters, birders, outdoor enthusiasts
10. Environmental and health impacts of coal dust from increased coal handling operations at plant
11. Impacts on state and federal endangered plants and animals from deposition of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, mercury
12. Impacts on state and national parks or other special natural resource areas
13. Cumulative impacts from the old coal plant, the new one and any other pollution sources in the area.
14. Radioactive emissions from burning coal, which contains trace amounts of radionuclides.
15. Transmission lines

If you want to submit written comments to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, here is some information.

Mail your comments to:

Pamela Bonrud, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Sample comments:

September 13, 2005

Pamela Bonrud, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: In the Matter of the Application by Otter Tail Power Company on behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of the Big Stone II Project; Docket No. EL05-022

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

I'm very concerned that the proposed Big Stone II coal plant will be another major source of mercury pollution. I think the permit application process should look very carefully at the impact of mercury contamination on the health of surrounding communities. How serious is the mercury contamination in local lakes and rivers now? How much worse will it get? What will this do to local children or people who depend on fishing to live? What is the economic effect of damaging the fishing and recreation resources in the area? These questions must be answered!

Sincerely,

Your name
Your address

For more information, contact Clean Water Action at 605-978-9196.

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