March 18, 2006

303 Wellington Parkway
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Tatnall Building
William Penn Street, 2nd Fl.
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Minner:

I'm writing about the serious problem of air pollution. Delaware's unhealthy air is hurting the people who live in our state, our communities, and our environment.

Delaware's two coal-burning power plants contribute significantly to our air pollution through 4 main pollutants: nitrogen, sulfur, particulates, and mercury. Delaware's Multi- Pollutant Regulation should require these outdated power plants to significantly reduce emissions of all 4 main pollutants by 2010.

On March 9, 2006, NRG and Connective indicated that they supported only a 70% reduction in Sulfur Dioxide and a 40% reduction in Nitrogen Oxides. Such a weak regulation would not be consistent with regulations in New Jersey, or Act's in the Maryland Legislature. Consistent regulatory requirements would be 90% reductions of sulfur dioxide, mercury, and particulate matter, and an 80% reduction in nitrogen oxides.

It is critical for the health of all Delawareans and for the health of our environment, for mercury emissions be reduced and eliminated. Therefore, I believe the State should act to prevent these facilities from purchasing emission credits for mercury. Why sell credits upwind that will dump downwind into Delaware? Why use credits to allow increased emissions in Delaware? The goal is to reduce mercury loadings in Delaware therefore trading doesn't make sense.

We are not fooled by the power company's posturing. Yes, investment in pollution controls and increased operating costs will mean fewer profits. However, the cost of conventional unit operation with controls will still be less much less than power produced with oil, and far less expensive than natural gas.

As it now stands, the power companies get the profits and we get the costs. 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, fish that are unsafe to eat, and medical costs.

Isn't it about time these facilities acted responsively for a change?

look forward to hearing from you and will be closely following this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rev Diane A. Nagorka, PhD

cc: Secretary John A. Hughes, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901