

NEW ADS ALERT PUBLIC TO GRAVE HEALTH RISKS POSED BY POLLUTION FROM HATFIELD'S FERRY, KEYSTONE POWER PLANTS

***Citizens in Pittsburgh, Western PA Warned of Deadly Sulfur Dioxide;
Radio Ads Designed to Push for State Action in Wake of EPA "Dropping the Ball"***

PITTSBURGH, PA./MARCH 16, 2004// Residents of Western Pennsylvania are afflicted with some of the U.S.'s worst power plant air pollution, forcing a new major advertising campaign to urge the state of Pennsylvania to pursue investigations against power plants that were dropped by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), literally letting companies off the hook for potential violations, according to the major new advertising campaign, being unveiled today.

More than \$10,000 will be spent in the coming weeks on radio ads featuring messages from Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), Clean Water Action and Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP). Underwritten by the nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) in Washington, D.C., the ads focus on the chronic bronchitis, asthma and other major health ills associated with such power plant emissions as sulfur dioxide, a major pollutant that has been linked to premature death. The ads also note that Allegheny Energy's Hatfield's Ferry and the Keystone power plant, owned by a consortium of companies including Reliant Energy, are among the biggest sources of sulfur dioxide pollution in the United States.

Airing on radio stations KDKA, WSHH and WPTT, the new ads also explain that just five of the 22 power plants across Pennsylvania that were under investigation for potential clean air violations emit over 400,000 tons of sulfur dioxide pollution each year. Those investigations were dropped by the Bush administration in November of 2003.

Both of the ads now being aired end in the same way: **"When power companies ... get a pass to pollute from the EPA, we pay the price – our kids, senior citizens – all of us. If the federal government won't stand up for our state, isn't it time Pennsylvania stood up for itself?"**

Eric Schaeffer, director, Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), Washington, D.C., said: **"Until very recently, we were seeing real progress under Clean Air Act enforcement to reduce pollution from power plants in Pennsylvania. That all went out the window with the Bush Administration's campaign to dismantle the Clean Air Act, with the wholesale abandonment in 2003 of cases that were under investigation, including major focuses on air pollution from Allegheny Energy and Reliant Energy. This inaction by EPA is outrageous and we want to make sure Pennsylvanians understand that their health is suffering as a result."**

Myron Arnowitt, Western Pennsylvania director, Clean Water Action, said: **"The Keystone power plant emitted more mercury pollution than any other power plant in the United States in 2003. Both Keystone and Allegheny Energy's Hatfield's Ferry plant operate without any controls for deadly sulfur emissions, which is unconscionable more than thirty years after the Clean Air Act was passed."**

Rachel Filippini, program coordinator, Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), said: **"We urge the state of Pennsylvania to step in, since the Bush administration's EPA has dropped the ball in dealing with dirty power plants that literally are in our backyards. Western Pennsylvania shouldn't be the national poster child for power plant pollution. This is not some theoretical problem--EPA's own scientists acknowledge the deadly effects of power plant pollution. The time to act is now!"**

Lisa Graves Marcucci, president, Jefferson Action Group, Inc. said: **"The purpose of these ads is to educate people—about the harmful pollution they're breathing and about the sad fact**

that the Bush administration's EPA has abandoned the public's health. Since the federal government won't force dirty power to clean up, it's time for Pennsylvania to take initiative. We're being forced to fix this problem ourselves."

ABOUT THE GROUPS

The **Environmental Integrity Project** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in March of 2002 to advocate for more effective enforcement of environmental laws. EIP was founded by Eric Schaeffer in March of 2002. Mr. Schaeffer was director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Regulatory Enforcement until 2002, when he resigned after publicly expressing his frustration with efforts of the Bush Administration to weaken enforcement of the Clean Air Act and other laws.

Clean Water Action has been working around the country for over 30 years protecting the public from the hazards of pollution in our water, air, and land. Clean Water Action has over 60,000 members in Pennsylvania

The **Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)** was founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers concerned about air quality issues in southwestern Pennsylvania. To achieve our environmental goals on behalf of the citizens of southwestern Pa, GASP will advocate, educate, serve as an environmental watchdog, mobilize action, and litigate when necessary.

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) which has offices in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, is a statewide public interest membership organization that advances policies to protect and improve the state's environment and economy. PennFuture's activities include litigating cases before regulatory bodies and in local, state and federal courts, advocating and advancing legislative action on a state and federal level, public education and assisting citizens in public advocacy.

Jefferson Action Group, Inc., is a grassroots organization working to ensure that the protection of human health is the priority of all environmental regulations.

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