



Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

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August 4, 2011

Lisa Perez Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234-2910

Dear Administrator Jackson,

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform U.S. public policy related to peacemaking, care for creation, poverty, and human rights. On behalf of FAN's 47 institutional members, we urge strong implementation of your proposed Clean Air Act standards.

Franciscans are dedicated to the **care of creation**, seeing all creatures as brothers and sisters. Within creation, Franciscans emphasize the **dignity of the human person**. Franciscans are dedicated to a **consistent ethic of life**, including a genuine love and **respect for the poor and vulnerable**. The Franciscan vision thus stresses the **right relationship of justice**.

Given these values, FAN welcomes efforts to protect human and environmental health from the devastating impacts of mercury and other air toxics from power plants. We recognize that even small amounts of pollutants from power plants damage our environment, food chain, and human health. For unborn and young children, exposure can lead to brain damage, birth defects, and learning disabilities. Persons in low-income communities and the elderly are more vulnerable to health impacts such as heart disease, cancer, bronchitis, asthma and other crippling conditions.

For years, we have known that one in six children in the U.S. is born with harmful levels of mercury. Although present efforts to avoid exposure, such as through fish consumption, are necessary in the short term, we need to address and remedy the original sources of contaminants. Your proposed standards would reduce emissions of mercury from power plants by 91 percent.

We are pleased that the proposed rule would have minimal employment impacts. Implementation should limit impacts on the workforce while maintaining a priority for health and well-being. The most vulnerable should not bear the worst effects of air pollution or costs of its reduction.

Thank you for welcoming FAN's support for swift implementation of strong air quality policies.

Peace and All Good,

Patrick Carolan, Executive Director