

**Registered Attendance at Public Hearings for the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Gilberton Coal-to-Clean Fuels and Power Project
Shenandoah, PA -- January 9, 2006
Pottsville, PA -- January 10, 2006**

Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>Mel Fishburn</i>	Address: <i>428 Market St.</i>
Affiliation:	<i>Pottsville PA 17901</i>
Telephone: <i>628 3543</i>	
Comments: <i>This plant we be very positive for our community</i>	

70-1

**Registered Attendance at Public Hearings for the
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Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>Duane Flagley</i>	Address: <i>4407 Chestnut St</i>
Affiliation: <i>PA Anthracite Council</i>	<i>Camp Hill, PA 17011</i>
Telephone: <i>717-737-9825</i>	
Comments: <i>I support the project!</i>	

71-1

Fishburn, Mel (70)

Comment 70-1

This plant will be very positive for our community.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Flagley, Duane (71)

Comment 71-1

I support this project!

Response:

The comment has been noted.

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Name: <i>Michael Hillje</i>	Address: <i>24 Little Mountain Road</i>
Affiliation: <i>Electrical Worker</i>	<i>New Ringgold, Pa 17960</i>
Telephone: <i>570-617-2728</i>	

Comments: *This project would be great for the economy of Schuylkill County.*

72-1

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Name: <i>DAVID HOUCK</i>	Address: <i>1434 Elbridge St.</i>
Affiliation: <i>Action PA</i>	<i>Philadelphia, PA 19149</i>
Telephone: <i>610-864-0775</i>	

Comments: *The cumulative impact section (6) fails to look at the intention to expand this facility and the plans to build additional facilities of this type in this region. They fail to look at ~~the~~ even the cumulative air impacts of this and 9 other ~~existing~~ waste coal burning power plants in the region combined. It's absurd that a potentially infinite amount of these plants can be located in the same region and not have ~~to~~ have a cumulative impact study as long as each facility emits <100 tpy of various pollutants!*

73-1

Hillje, Michael (72)

Comment 72-1

This project would be great for the economy of Schuylkill County.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Houck, David (73)

Comment 73-1

The cumulative impact of section (6) fails to look at the intention to expand this facility and the plans to build additional facilities of this type in this region. They fail to look at even the cumulative air impacts of this and 8 other waste coal burning power plants in the region combined. It's absurd that a potentially infinite amount of these plants can be located in the same region and not have to have a cumulative impact study as long as each facility emits <100 tpy of various pollutants!

Response:

Potential cumulative impacts, including air impacts, of the proposed project and other facilities in the area are discussed in EIS sections 4.1.2.2 and 6.1.1. See response to comment S3-3.

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Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: ROBERT J, LEGUTKO	Address: 367 ROOSEVELT DRIVE
Affiliation: MOREA CITIZENS	MAHANAY CITY, PA 17948
Telephone:	
Comments:	
RELOCATE THE PLANT TO A MORE REMOTE AREA	
SUCH AS LOCUST SUMMIT WHERE THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF	
RAW FEEDSTOCK, RAIL ROADS FOR TRUCKING, WATER, AND	
ELECTRIC POWER LINES	

74-1

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for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: Robert Mummy	Address: 229 Ohio Ave
Affiliation: Millwright Local #76	Shenandoah Pa. 17976
Telephone: 570-462-2554	
Comments:	
I would like to know what kind of odors	
the plant would give off.	

75-1

Legutko, Robert J. (74)

Comment 74-1

Relocate the plant to a more remote area such as Locust Summit where there is an abundance of raw feedstock, rail, roads for trucking, water, and electric power lines.

Response:

See response to comment S10-9.

Mummey, Robert (75)

Comment 75-1

I would like to know what kind of odors the plant would give off.

Response:

Odors could arise from emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur-containing compounds, and a variety of organic chemicals produced at the facilities. Atmospheric emissions from the proposed project are discussed in EIS Section 4.1.2.2. (see “Scoping Concerns,” which specifically addresses odors). Odors are not expected to be perceptible at and beyond the project boundaries.

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Name: <i>William E. O'Donnell</i>	Address: <i>49 New Rd</i>
Affiliation: <i>W. MAHANOY TWP Resident</i>	<i>Last Creek, PA.</i>
Telephone: <i>570-462-3976</i>	

Comments:

ALL IN FAVOR OF THIS PROJECT.

76-1

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for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>Daniel Pasceavage</i>	Address:
Affiliation: <i>S T O P</i>	
Telephone:	<i>Dellon Pa 15221</i>

Comments:

*Amount of water on this planet never increases,
Water consumption does. This plant will use way
TO much water.*

77-1

O'Donnell, William E. (76)

Comment 76-1

All in favor of this project.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Pascavage, Daniel (77)

Comment 77-1

Amount of water on this planet never increases. Water consumption does. This plant will use way too much water.

Response:

The potential impacts of water use by the proposed facilities are discussed in Section 4.1.4. Potential cumulative effects of this water use are considered in Section 6.

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Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>CHARLES PREMICH</i>	Address: <i>PO Box 222 ST CLAIR 17970</i>
Affiliation: <i>SHOEMAKERS LOCAL 13</i>	
Telephone: <i>570 429 0295</i>	
Comments: <i>PRO - LET'S GET IT UP & RUNNING TO GET AID OF THE CULM & CREATE JOBS.</i>	

78-1

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for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>John P. Gueman</i>	Address: <i>411 Gun Club Road</i>
Affiliation: <i>Ironworkers 420</i>	<i>Kutztown PA</i>
Telephone: <i>610-683-8355</i>	<i>19530</i>
Comments: <i>lets clean up this environment</i>	

79-1

Premich, Charles (78)

Comment 78-1

Pro – let's get it up & running to get rid of the culm & create jobs.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Queman, John P. (79)

Comment 79-1

Let's clean up this environment.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

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Shenandoah, PA -- January 9, 2006
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Name: <i>Chris Sapp</i>	Address: <i>115 EAST High St</i>
Affiliation: <i>LW: 420</i>	
Telephone: <i>570-874-3701</i>	
Comments: <i>I think it would be great to see this job happen both for the workers and the landscapes of all the culm piles.</i>	

80-1

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Pottsville, PA -- January 10, 2006

Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <i>LOU SCHULTZ</i>	Address: <i>12 SCHULTZ ROAD</i>
Affiliation: <i>LOCAL # 76 MILLWRIGHTS</i>	<i>GILBERTON PA 17934</i>
Telephone: <i>570-874-7170</i>	
Comments: <i>LETS NO IT</i>	

81-1

Sapp, Chris (80)

Comment 80-1

I think it would be great, to see this job happen, both for the workers and the landscapes of all the culm piles.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Schultz, Lou (81)

Comment 81-1

Let's do it.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

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for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: Jesse T. Skay	Address: 2135 West Market St
Affiliation:	Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: 622-4596	
Comments: The plant should be built to help our economy	

82-1

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Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: Ed+Helen Sluzis	Address: 206 Roosevelt Dr.
Affiliation: homeowner/taxpayer	Mohanty City Pa 17949
Telephone: 570-773-1618	
Comments: According to the EIS, the facility will reduce groundwater recharge to the aquifers on Broad Mt. and may disrupt water service to the 350 residents of Morea. What is the contingency plan for alternate water service to Morea? Who will provide the water? Who will build + pay for the infrastructure to deliver the water? What do we do for water in the interim? How will this affect utility bills? And the same questions apply in the event of Contamination of the Morea well. This risk is unacceptable.	

83-1

Shay, Jesse T. (82)

Comment 82-1

The plant should be built to help our economy.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

Sluzis, Edward & Helen (83)

Comment 83-1

According to the EIS, the facility will reduce groundwater recharge to the aquifers on Broad Mt. and may disrupt water service to the 350 residents of Morea? What is the contingency plan for alternate water service to Morea? Who will provide the water? Who will build and pay for the infrastructure to deliver the water? What do we do for water in the interim? How will this affect utility bills? And the same questions apply in the event of contamination of Morea well. This risk is unacceptable.

Response:

Section 4.1.4.2 discusses the potential for the proposed facilities to affect water availability for Morea by reducing groundwater recharge over a portion of the aquifer that supplies Morea's well. The calculations provided in that section indicate that the remaining groundwater recharge would be more than sufficient to meet Morea's needs. Thus, the 350 residents of Morea would not experience any disruption in water service as result of the proposed project. However, Section 3.4.4 includes information about a report from a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection consultant (PDEP 2002b) that stated that the Morea water utility has experienced difficulties maintaining water pressure through its distribution system. These difficulties, which the report indicates result from inadequacies in the distribution system, could lead to service disruptions unrelated to the proposed project.

There is little chance that the proposed project would cause contamination of the Morea well. As explained in Section 4.1.4.2, most potential impacts to groundwater on Broad Mountain would be avoided by standard engineering practices such as collection of potentially contaminated runoff and cleaning up accidental spills. Project wastewater effluents would be discharged in Mahanoy Valley and, therefore, could not affect groundwater on Broad Mountain. The proposed septic system for sanitary wastewater disposal, which would only receive wastewaters similar to those generated by households, would discharge effluents to the aquifer, but these should not adversely affect groundwater quality. See Section 4.1.4.2 for additional information. Also, see response to comment P1-4.

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Name: Jason Stevens	Address: 36 Vulcan Rd
Affiliation: resident	Barnesville
Telephone: _____	
Comments: yes for coal to gas	

84-1

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Shenandoah, PA -- January 9, 2006
Pottsville, PA -- January 10, 2006**

Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list Yes **DRAFT EIS**
for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: Pete Snowbell	Address: 417 Lower St
Affiliation:	Maria
Telephone:	Wilmington PA
Comments: COPY OF DRAFT EIS	
Let's shut balding	

85-1

Stevens, Jason (84)

Comment 84-1:
Yes for coal to gas.

Response:
The comment has been noted.

Strenchecl, Pete (85)

Comment 85-1:
Let's start building.

Response:
The comment has been noted.

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Name: <u>TIM TWARDZIK</u>	Address: <u>200 Butler Rd</u>
Affiliation:	<u>FRANKVILLE PA</u>
Telephone: <u>570 874 3548</u>	<u>17931-2014</u>

Comments:
WHAT Benefit goes directly to the "Host" Communities of THE
Project - MAH TWP / Adjacent W. MAH TWP / Butler /
Frankville etc. A "HOST" to A Land Fill gets great
"package" to put up with the project. Since this is
the 1st Refinery built in 30 years -- what's in
it for the Host?

86-1

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for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? No

Name: <u>Ann Marie Wycheck</u>	Address: <u>102 Morea Rd.</u>
Affiliation: <u>Resident (Very Concerned)</u>	<u>Frankville, PA 17931</u>
Telephone: <u>570-874-3111</u>	

Comments: I am totally against this project
because of emissions, air quality, + water usage.

87-1

Twardzik, Tim (86)

Comment 86

What benefit goes directly to the “host” communities of the project – Mah. Twp./adjacent W. Mah. Twp./Butler/Frackville etc. A “host” to a landfill gets great “package” to put up with the project. Since this is the first refinery in 30 years – what’s in it for the host?

Response:

EIS Section 4.1.7 addresses both the adverse and beneficial effects of the proposed project on social and economic resources in the area and the larger region.

Wycheck, Ann Marie (87)

Comment 87

I am totally against this project because of emissions, air quality, and water usage.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

<p>Registered Attendance at Public Hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Gilberton Coal-to-Clean Fuels and Power Project</p> <p>Shenandoah, PA -- January 9, 2006 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Pottsville, PA -- January 10, 2006 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Do you wish to be placed on the mailing list <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes for the Final EIS and Record of Decision? <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
Name: <i>Ronald Yodis</i>	Address: <i>123 S. White</i>
Affiliation: <i>Retired</i>	<i>Shenandoah, Pa</i>
Telephone: <i>462-4342</i>	
<p>Comments:</p> <p><i>I know what county I live in the 4th most corrupt in America not who is kidding who.</i></p>	

} 88-1

Yodis, Ronald (88)

Comment 88

I know what county I live in the 4th most corrupt in America so who is kidding who.

Response:

The comment has been noted.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICER ASSOCIATION

Local SI Mahanoy
301 Morea Road, Box 68
Frackville, Pennsylvania
17932
1-570-773-2158, Ext 200
Email: simahanov@msn.com

Edward K. Beleski
President

Robert J. Storm
Vice President

L. Marc Burlile
Secretary

Timothy G. Teltow
Treasurer

February 21, 2006

Ms. Janice L. Bell
NEPA Document Manager
National Energy Technology Laboratory
P.O. Box 109401
MS 58/247A
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Ms. Bell

I am expressing our views and concerns about the Gilberton Coal-to-Fuels and Power Project. Identification # (DOE/EIS-0357).

Air Quality: Page xxix EIS. There are several hundred employees at the Mahanoy State Prison. Any concentrations of any Volatile Organic Compound (VOC), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), or Carbon Dioxide (CO2) sent into the atmosphere will eventually have an affect on the employees. Some employees are outdoors during their entire work day. 89-1

Socioeconomic Resources: Page xxi EIS. The Mahanoy State Correctional Institution is **"NOT"** a sealed facility as stated in this report. We have employees outdoors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 89-2

Human Health and Safety: Page xxxii EIS. The emission of a "new source of hazardous air pollutants (e.g., mercury)". What will be done to protect the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution from Mercury? 89-3

Noise: Page xxxii EIS. The increase of noise **"WILL"** have an affect on the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution. 89-4

Air Emissions: Page 2-15 EIS. With the emissions of mercury, beryllium, sulfuric acid mist, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, benzene, arsenic, and various heavy metals into the atmosphere, this poses a great health risk to the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institute. 89-5

Public Health: Page 4-34 EIS. "Any increase in regional air emissions could potentially be harmful to sensitive members of the general population". What about the entire population as a whole? It leads me to believe that not everyone has been thought about in this report. } 89-6

Environmental Justice: Page 4-26 EIS. Again I state. The Mahanoy State Correctional Institution is "NOT" a sealed facility. Employees are outdoors all day and night long.

Construction: Page 4-3 EIS. The report states that there are no residential locations within 0.5 mile of the main plant area. We have Executive Officials that live on Prison grounds and what about the inmate population? Are they not considered residents? The prison is their home. } 89-7

There are way too many problems with the construction of this plant. I object to its construction at its present location. } 89-8

Sincerely



Edward K. Beleski
President, PSCOA/SI Mahanoy

Cc: PSCOA
File

Beleski, Edward K., President; Pennsylvania State Corrections Officer Association, Local SI Mahanoy (89)

Comment 89-1

Page xxix EIS. There are several hundred employees at the Mahanoy State Prison. Any concentrations of any Volatile Organic Compound (VOC), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), or Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) sent into the atmosphere will eventually have an affect on the employees. Some employees are outdoors during their entire work day.

Response:

The EIS evaluates potential air quality impacts at locations along or outside the WMPI property boundaries, including the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution. The analysis assumed that an individual at the prison could continuously be exposed to pollutants in the outside air, except for limiting an individual's outside exposure to fugitive dust from proposed construction activities to 13 hours during a 24-hour period (Edward K. Beleski, Mahanoy State Correctional Institution, Local President of Pennsylvania State Corrections Officer Association, personal communication to Robert L. Miller, ORNL, March 22, 2006). Modeling results indicated no exceedances from construction activities, except possibly at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution, depending on the amount of acreage undergoing heavy earthwork simultaneously. Results indicated that the maximum area undergoing heavy earthwork at any one time would need to be limited to 2.5 acres of the 75-acre main plant site to stay within ambient air quality standards at all locations, including the prison. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) has recently started operating (May 9, 2006) a PM-10 monitor at the prison to measure ambient concentrations of particles, including fugitive dust. At this time, results from the monitoring have not been summarized by the PA DEP.

During operation, predicted emissions of VOCs and NO_x would be about 70 and 28 tons/year, respectively (Section 4.1.2.2). A source with potential emissions of less than 100 tons/year is not considered a major source of that pollutant under the Clear Air Act regulations. The proposed facilities would be considered a minor source of all regulated pollutants by the PA DEP. The photochemical reactions between VOCs and NO_x that produce ozone can take hours to complete, such that ozone will form far from the sources of its precursors. Similarly, the impact of CO₂ production by the proposed facilities will not be local, but rather globally through its contribution to the global CO₂ budget.

Comment 89-2

Page xxi EIS. The Mahanoy State Correctional Institution is **“NOT”** a sealed facility as stated in this report. We have employees outdoors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Response:

The word “sealed” has been removed from the EIS. The EIS analysis assumed that an individual could be continuously exposed to pollutants in the outside air, except for limiting an individual's outside exposure to fugitive dust from proposed construction activities to 13 hours during a 24 hour period (Edward K. Beleski, Mahanoy State Correctional Institution, Local President of Pennsylvania State Corrections Officer Association, personal communication to Robert L. Miller, ORNL, March 22, 2006). Although the building

ventilation systems allow outside air to mix with recycled air, antimicrobial air filters capture particles downstream of the air mixing chambers. The filters are changed monthly. Consequently, the EIS analysis assumed that individuals would be protected daily from fugitive dust for a period of at least 11 hours while inside the buildings or away from the prison grounds. See also the response to comment 89-3.

Comment 89-3

Page xxxii EIS.

The emission of a “new source of hazardous air pollutants (e.g., mercury)”. What will be done to protect the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution from Mercury?

Response:

As discussed in Section 4.1.2.2, Air Quality Program Permit No. 54-399-034, issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the proposed facilities, establishes maximum allowable limits for total facility emissions of less than 10 tons for any single hazardous air pollutant (e.g., mercury) and less than 25 tons altogether for any combination of hazardous air pollutants during any consecutive 12-month rolling period. The permitted limits function as a cap to ensure that the proposed facilities would be a minor new source of hazardous air pollutants under the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants regulations. Because the proposed facilities would be a minor new source, employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution should be protected.

The permitted limit does not reflect the actual expected emissions of hazardous air pollutants. In WMPI’s application for Air Quality Program Permit No. 54-399-034, an estimate of 3.7 tons per year was given for the sum of all hazardous air pollutants. The estimate was based on a worst-case scenario that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection required for comparison with the latter’s 25-ton limit for the sum of all hazardous air pollutants. WMPI has estimated that the actual sum of hazardous air pollutant emissions would possibly be about 1.5 tons per year. Consequently, the quantity of a single hazardous air pollutant would likely be less than 1 ton per year, which is considerably less than the permitted limit of 10 tons per year. WMPI estimates of annual air emissions of individual species include 2.4 lb for arsenic and 38.6 lb for mercury.

Comment 89-4

Page xxxii EIS. The increase of noise **“WILL”** have an affect on the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution.

Response:

Noise impacts are addressed in Section 4.1.10. Also, see responses to comments S17-3, P6-1, and 41-55.

Comment 89-5

Page 2-15 EIS. With the emissions of mercury, beryllium, sulfuric acid mist, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, benzene, arsenic, and various heavy metals into the atmosphere, this poses a great health risk to the employees at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institute.

Response:

See response to Comment 89-3, which notes that emissions from the proposed project would be restricted under the air quality permit. In addition, as stated in Section 4.1.2.2, the permit specifies a maximum allowable limit during any consecutive 12-month rolling period of 100 tons for ammonia and 15 tons for sulfuric acid mist, which are not designated as hazardous air pollutants under the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants regulations.

Comment 89-6

Page 4-34 EIS. "Any increase in regional air emissions could potentially be harmful to sensitive members of the general population." What about the entire population as a whole? It leads me to believe that not everyone has been thought about in this report.

Response:

The young, old, and those individuals weakened from disease are likely to be those first affected by small concentration increases. A discussion of the potential public health impacts from the addition of the proposed facilities has been added to section 4.1.9.1.

Comment 89-7

Page 4-3 EIS. The report states that there are no residential locations within 0.5 mile of the main plant area. We have Executive Officials that live on Prison grounds and what about the inmate population? Are they not considered residents? The prison is their home.

Response:

The EIS addresses potential air quality impacts at the Mahanoy State Correctional Institution. No exceedances were predicted at the prison, except possibly for concentrations of fugitive dust resulting from construction activities. Results indicated that the maximum area undergoing heavy earthwork at any one time would need to be limited to 2.5 acres of the 75-acre main plant site to stay within ambient air quality standards at all locations, including the prison.

Comment 89-8

There are way too many problems with the construction of this plant. I object to its construction at its present location.

Response:

The comment has been noted.

GEORGE GAYDOSH
116 ROOSEVELT DRIVE
MOREA, PA 17948-3210
JANUARY 31, 2006
REF: (DOE/EIS-0357)

JANICE L. BELL
NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
PO BOX 10940, (MS 58/247A)
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236

DEAR MS. BELL;

ENCLOSED ARE PICTURES OF THE WHEELABRATOR
CO-GEN PLANT WEST OF MOREA, PA SHOWING THE
EMISSIONS GOING INTO THE AIR WHICH EVENTUALLY
BLOW FROM WEST TO EAST, DURING THE DAY, TO
MOREA.

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE PLANT WHICH WE
MUST ENDURE WITH ITS NOISE AND UNHEALTHY
EMISSIONS CONTINUALLY DURING THE DAY AND EARLY MORNING
HOURS.
TO PUT ANOTHER CO-GEN PLANT IN THIS AREA IS
LUDICROUS!

HOPING THE DOE CONSIDERS OUR DILEMA AND
DOES NOT APPROVE THE GRANT FOR THIS AREA!

ENCL: (3)

SINCERELY
George Gaydos

90-1

Gaydosh, George (90)

Comment 90-1:

Enclosed are pictures of the Wheelabrator co-gen plant west of Morea, PA showing the emissions going into the air which eventually blow from west to east, during the day, to Morea.

This is an example of one plant which we must endure with its noise and unhealthy emissions continually during the day and early morning hours. To put another co-gen plant in this area is ludicrous!

Hoping the DOE considers our dilemma and does not approve the grant for this areas!

Response:

The comments have been noted. Noise impacts are addressed in Section 4.1.10, and air impacts are addressed in Section 4.1.2.

317 S Mill St
St Clair, Pa 17970 PA.

Re: Question concerning mining area's standing
with environmental justice. (Jan 18, 2006)
Pottsville PA

Dear Mrs Bell:

Enclosed copies of Community Forum
that included mining groups in environmental
justice and accumulating adverse impacts.
I haven't been able to ascertain if anything
has improved DEP's handling of these concerns.

However, I would appreciate if you could
determine if mining communities have been
effectively included in environmental justice
in Pennsylvania and if accumulative
pollutions in an area can (or must) be
considered in a final draft impact statement
of this potentially dangerous project?

91-1

91-2

I apologize for the late request but I have
had serious eye problems. Some reason I couldn't
type this letter. I only pray you can read it

Sincerely yours
^{or hopefully}

Margaret Mansell

**Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection**

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP
COMMUNITY FORUM**

- 6:30 p.m. Arrival and Refreshments**
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductory Comments**
- Introduction of Work Group members
 - What is the Work Group and what has it been doing?
 - Focus of community forum
 - Format for community forum
- 7:15 p.m. The Draft Report: Presentation and Discussion**
- Work Group members present sections of Report
 - Community asks questions and makes suggestions
- 9:00 p.m. Informal Discussion**
- Meet Work Group members and talk further
 - Meet and talk to staff from the Department of Environmental Protection

- Continued On Back -

If you are not able to get all of your comments and questions heard tonight, or if you would rather submit them in other ways, you can do so by:

Mail: PA Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Chief Counsel
Alisa E. Harris
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

E-Mail: Harris.Aalisa@dep.state.pa.us

Phone: (717) 787-4449

All comments must be received by April 23, 2001.

If you have other questions or concerns about environmental issues in your community, please contact Ms. Alice Wright, Southeast Regional Community Relations Coordinator, at (610) 832-6011.

THANK YOU FOR COMING

KEY POINTS

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP REPORT

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

- Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental issues.
- Environmental Justice in Pennsylvania focuses on empowering specific communities to participate in environmental decision-making.
- Environmental Justice in Pennsylvania means acting swiftly and decisively to improve conditions in environmentally burdened communities.

WHAT IS THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)?

- “The DEP mission is to protect Pennsylvania’s air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.”
- DEP manages Pennsylvania’s environmental laws and regulations through permitting and monitoring activities.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP?

- National evidence indicates that minority and low-income communities experience a greater share of negative impacts such as pollution, noise, traffic, etc.
- Mining communities are included because they are negatively affected by the impacts of mining operations, including subsidence, water loss, etc.
- Therefore the Work Group recommends that DEP focus on ensuring Environmental Justice for low-income, minority and mining communities in Pennsylvania.
- There are 20 types of permits that warrant special attention by DEP.

WHAT DOES THE WORK GROUP INTEND TO RECOMMEND TO DEP?

1. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL COMMUNITIES

- Actively seek opportunities for increased community input.
- Form Office of Environmental Advocate.
- Provide toll-free telephone number.
- Require applicant to hold public meeting to inform residents about the scope of the project, to be scheduled within 30 days of submission of a permit application.
- Encourage industry and community to work out solutions together.

2. IMPROVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Notify communities when permits are proposed.
- Put the notice in places people are likely to read it.
- Train minority and low-income community members about:

- Environmental regulations
- DEP resources and information
- Steps for making a complaint or appealing a permit decision
- Opportunities to be involved in DEP’s decision-making

- Continued On Back -

- Provide better and more easily understood information when an industrial facility is being proposed.
 - Use plain language and languages used in the community.
 - Put permit applications in convenient locations and on the Internet.
3. **INCREASE DEP'S SENSITIVITY TO ISSUES OF DIVERSITY**
- Train DEP staff to ensure respectful communication with people from all communities.
 - Involve people from low-income, minority and mining communities as instructors in this training.
 - Form an Environmental Justice Advisory Board to oversee DEP's environmental justice programs.
 - Have members on Board from civil rights groups, grassroots groups, industry, universities, and government.
4. **RESTORE ENVIRONMENTALLY BURDENED AREAS**
- Work with government agencies and other partners to clean up and restore low-income and minority communities.
 - Concentrate efforts on historically overburdened communities.
5. **CONSIDER ADDITIONAL IMPACTS IN REVIEWING PERMITS**
- secretly* → *J*
- Ensure that communities don't suffer from unacceptable "Cumulative Impacts" (the combined impact of multiple facilities in one community)
 - Ensure that minority and low-income communities don't receive more negative impacts than other communities (called "Disparate Impacts")
6. **ENHANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**
- Increase monitoring to identify and take action against non-complying facilities.
 - Assign special enforcement officers to environmentally burdened communities.
 - Pay attention to information provided by communities.
 - Respond as quickly as possible to community complaints.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS?

- DEP will accept recommendations to which all members of the Work Group agree.
- DEP can make some changes quickly (toll-free number, training DEP staff, public notification).
- For other recommendations, DEP will have to pursue regulatory changes.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: *Realize indigenous mining people know facts and conditions experts do not. Mining communities have been adversely impacted for a hundred years and now are inundated by many new adverse impacts, so these adverse impacts should must be considered, ~~combined~~ combined & evaluated*

Mansell, Margret (91)

Comment 91-1:

I would appreciate it if you could determine if mining communities have been effectively included in environmental justice in Pennsylvania.

Response:

Although mining communities are not explicitly defined as low-income populations, to the extent that they are low-income communities they are considered in environmental justice analyses. In Section 4.1.7.7 we address the possibility of disproportionate impacts to local low-income populations. The EIS text acknowledges that Census Tracts 5 and 6 have higher percentages of low-income residents than the state of Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County, or any other census tract near the proposed facilities. The EIS concludes, however, that the proposed project would not have significant or disproportionate impacts on this population because there would not be serious impacts to air quality, water quality, and human health (Sections 4.1.2, 4.1.4, and 4.1.9).

Comment 91-2:

[I would appreciate it if you could determine] if accumulative pollutions in an area can (or must) be considered in a final draft impact statement.

Response:

Consideration of cumulative impacts in NEPA documents is required by regulations. These are discussed in EIS Section 4.1.2.2 and Section 6.

MAHANOY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sharon R. Chiao, Chairman
James P. Stevens, Vice Chairman

Timothy Bradbury, Supervisor
Cheryl Backo, Secretary/Treasurer

P.O. Box 55
Mahanoy City, PA 17948

Phone: 570-773-1553
Fax: 570-773 6162

August 3, 2006

Janice Bell/ Roy Spears
US Dept of Energy
Natl. Energy Tech Lab.
3610 Collins Ferry Rd.
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Sharon Chiao
1010 West Center St
Mahanoy City Pa. 17948

This is to inform you that the Township office has received over four hundred (400) letters of objection from some of the inmates of Mahanoy State Correctional Institute (see enclosed letters) and more are arriving daily.

We have also been notified that the State Correction Officer Union at SCI has many health and safety concerns with this project. This issue should be addressed by who is finalizing the impact statement. We struggle with this issue daily as we do our best to serve and protect our township residents.

Respectfully,


Sharon Chiao

Cc: County Commissioners
Rep. Tim Holden
Sen. James J. Rhoades
Rep. Neal P. Goodman

Resident/Inmate Andrew Craig

No. # DPLS75 at SCI-Mahanoy

Mahanoy Township
1010 West Center St.
Mahanoy City, Penna. 17958

Re: Formal Objection
To Proposed Coal-Gasification
Plant For The City of Gilberton

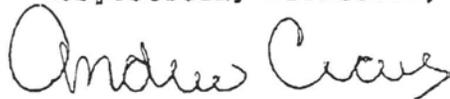
Dear Gentilepersons:

This is to serve notice that by way of this letter the undersigned, hereby state his formal objections to the proposed coal-gasification plant for the City of Gilberton. By way of the same; I, further, respectfully request that the formal objection contained herein be made part of the official record, during any/all meetings/sessions concerning any possible approval of the proposed project.

My second, formal objection deals with the cross-proximity that would exist between the proposed coal-gasification plant and this facility. With the center of the plant being less than half a mile from this facility and the outskirts of the plant at only 300 ft. from the center of this facility; the inmates and staff would be subjected to an unacceptable exposure to the toxic chemical fall-out from this plant. This, I believe, will result in a myriad of medical conditions for both inmate and staff, adding to the already escalating cost of providing adequate healthcare for inmate(s) and the staff, thereby, applying further pressure on the already existing strangle-hold on Pennsylvania taxpayers.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter and I trust that my objections will be made part of the official record during all steps of this process as per my formal request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Resident/Inmate of SCI-Mahanoy

92-1

Comment 92-1
See copy of letter.

Response:

The DOE received over 400 individually signed copies of this form letter, as well as some individual letters from residents/inmates of the Mahanoy State Correctional Institute. Issues raised in these letters include close proximity of the plant to the prisons, exposure of prisoners and staff to toxic chemicals, increased medical issues due to exposure, and preexisting health problems of some of the prisons may worsen due to exposure. These comments have been noted. Potential effects of the proposed project on human health and safety are addressed in Section 4.1.9 of the EIS.



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0119

Dear Ms. Borgstrom:

On Friday, June 2, 2006, we sent you a letter regarding our inability to get underlying data and assumptions used to calculate the annual carbon dioxide emissions for the proposed coal to liquids facility in Gilberton, PA. That letter contained an incorrect estimate of the potential carbon dioxide emissions from the plant.

I enclose a corrected version of our letter, which repeats our request for the information used to calculate the plant's carbon dioxide emissions and for an explanation of the reasons that information has not been provided to us to date.

Please replace the June 2 letter with this corrected version.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David G. Hawkins
Director, Climate Center

www.nrdc.org

1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
TEL 202 289-6868 FAX 202 289-1060

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NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

June 2, 2006 (corrected copy, June 5, 2006)

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
 Director
 Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
 United States Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20585-0119

Dear Ms Borgstrom:

On December 8, 2005, the US Department of Energy released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a coal to liquids facility proposed in Gilberton, PA. DOE is considering funding \$100 million of the plant's construction cost under the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI) program. Given the mandate of the CCPI program to fund technologies that specifically deal with mercury, particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions, NRDC took particular notice of the estimated carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of the plant. The draft EIS estimates CO₂ emissions of 832,000 tons per year; however, no further detail is offered regarding the input assumptions used to calculate that estimate. Since CO₂ is the primary pollutant responsible for global warming and deployment of coal to liquids plants for transportation fuels would have a major impact on CO₂ emissions, the EIS should accurately reflect these emissions from the proposed project as well as from wider scale deployment of this technology. We have not been able to verify the basis for the stated emissions in the current draft.

Based upon the information presented in Table 2.1.1 and Table 2.1.3 of the draft EIS, NRDC estimates the annual CO₂ emissions to be significantly higher than the estimate in the draft EIS: 2.1 million tons annually rather than the draft estimate of 832,000 tons.

Over the past month, NRDC has made several attempts to obtain information regarding the CO₂ emissions for the proposed Gilberton project. We understand that the estimate contained in the draft EIS was provided by the company applying for the permits (WMPI PTY, LLC) and was not independently verified by DOE or their consultants. Accordingly, NRDC staff attempted to obtain the basis for the CO₂ emissions estimated by WMPI for this plant. While we have had several conversations with DOE staff, we have yet to get the information requested.

For your convenience this letter summarizes our efforts to obtain this information with the request that the process be expedited.

- *May 2:* Mr. Tim Greeff of NRDC contacted Janice Bell, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager, and Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, both of whom are listed in the draft EIS as contacts for further information. Mr. Greeff left a message for Ms. Bell. Ms. Borgstrom directed us to Eric Cohen who heads the office responsible for the final draft. Mr. Cohen contacted NRDC to validate that our request had been received and was being investigated.

93-1

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- *May 3:* Ms. Bell contacted NRDC and recommended we contact Bob Miller of Oak Ridge National Laboratories who is the consultant drafting the EIS. Shortly thereafter, NRDC had a discussion with both Mr. Miller and Ms. Bell requesting the information about the CO2 estimate. Mr. Miller informed NRDC that the emission estimates in the EIS had been sent to him by WMPI and he would need to contact them to get the input assumptions for the calculations.
- *May 11:* NRDC received an email from Ms Bell containing the response from WMPI. WMPI did not provide the basis for its emissions estimates for the plant (for example, the carbon content of the anthracite culm feedstock), but rather simply broke the daily emissions down into various emission points at the plant (i.e. gas turbine stack emissions, process heater stack emissions, and AGR (Rectisol) and SRU stack emissions), totaled those daily emissions and multiplied that total by 365 to show annual emissions of 832,000 tons.
- *May 15:* Mr. Greeff responded to Ms Bell, Mr. Miller and Mr. Cohen in an email informing them of the problem and reiterating what exact information we wanted. A few days later, NRDC followed up with Ms Bell by phone and she confirmed that she had received our request and forwarded it on to WMPI. She mentioned that it would take some time for WMPI to get us the information we requested.
- *May 22:* Ms Bell sent a confirmation email to NRDC officially acknowledging receipt of our second request for the information.

As of the date of this letter, NRDC has received no further information or contact from DOE or WMPI. Our inability to obtain this information raises serious concerns about the adequacy of the EIS and our ability to comment on it. Since WMPI provided the emissions estimate contained in the draft EIS to ORNL, the basis for the estimate should be readily available upon request. Moreover, the requests for those assumptions were sent twice by DOE and ORNL. We do not understand why this information is not being made available to us.

In light of the above, we repeat our request for a detailed description of the calculations made to produce the estimated emissions from the Gilberton facility for CO2 and other emissions. Further, we request an explanation for why it has not been possible to provide us with this information in a timely manner.

Please let us know if you have any further questions. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David G. Hawkins
Director, Climate Center

93-1



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

June 2, 2006

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
 Director
 Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
 United States Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20585-0119

Dear Ms Borgstrom,

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Based upon the operation assumptions provided in the draft EIS and using the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) published emission factors for anthracite culm (the feedstock to be used at the Gilberton plant), NRDC calculates annual CO₂ emissions to be roughly 55% higher (1.3 million tons) than the draft EIS estimate.

Over the past month, NRDC has made several attempts to obtain information regarding the CO₂ emissions for the proposed Gilberton project. We understand that the estimate contained in the draft EIS was provided by the company applying for the permits (WMPI PTY, LLC) and was not independently verified by DOE or their consultants. Accordingly, NRDC staff attempted to obtain the basis for the CO₂ emissions estimated by WMPI for this plant. While we have had several conversations with DOE staff, we have yet to get the information requested.

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In light of the above, we repeat our request for a detailed description of the calculations made to produce the estimated emissions from the Gilberton facility for CO₂ and other emissions. Further, we request an explanation for why it has not been possible to provide us with this information in a timely manner.

Please let us know if you have any further questions. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David Hawkins
Director, Climate Center

Comment 93-1: See letter.

Response:

EIS Sections 4.1.2.2 and 5.1.4 have been revised to reflect revised information on carbon sequestration and CO₂ emissions from the proposed project. Pursuant to 10 CFR 1021.314, a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gilberton Coal-to-Clean Fuels and Power Project was issued in response to comments received concerning carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission totals and the potential of the proposed action to capture and sequester CO₂ emissions. The primary focus of the comments was to correct the total amount of CO₂ emissions that would be generated by the integrated facility. In response to comments, DOE has determined that the concentrated CO₂ stream exiting the gas cleanup system had not been included in the CO₂ emission total. The Supplement presents the sections of the Draft EIS that were modified to revise the CO₂ emission total and other sections of the Draft EIS related to CO₂ emissions and carbon sequestration, including sections that consider the impacts of commercial operation and cumulative impacts. For ease of reference, the Supplement is contained in Appendix E of this EIS.



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

August 9, 2006

Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom
Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0119

Dear Ms. Borgstrom:

In a June 27th meeting, the Department of Energy (DOE) admitted to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) that there was a major misstatement of the amount of CO₂ emissions reported in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the "Gilberton coal-to-clean fuels and power project" (DOE/EIS-0357). **The actual CO₂ emissions of the Gilberton plant are nearly 3 times higher than the CO₂ emissions originally reported in the draft EIS (see Table 1).**

We were informed that the misstatement of the reported CO₂ emissions in the Draft EIS stemmed from the fact that the project developer, WMPI, LLP, claimed it intended to sell a portion of the Gilberton plant's CO₂ emissions. Furthermore the US News and World Report article, entitled "The Oil Rush" by Marianne Lavelle (April 24, 2006) mentioned the project developer planned to sell to the carbonated beverage industry. However, even if the sale of some portion of the CO₂ emissions is accomplished, the carbonated beverage industry does not represent a permanent method of carbon sequestration.

The DOE staff that we met with on June 27th, 2006 have agreed to correct this misstatement in the revised EIS, along with some mischaracterizations of the impact of the Gilberton plant on global warming. In addition, DOE has agreed that a consideration of the feasibility of carbon sequestration for the CO₂ emissions of the Gilberton plant is a necessary component of the revised EIS, given that DOE is supplying \$100 million in funding to the plant under the Clean Coal Power Initiative, the purpose of which is to address, among other things, "the potential global climate-altering impact of greenhouse gasses."

Furthermore, 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9 requires DOE to "prepare, circulate, and file a supplement to a statement in the same fashion . . . as a draft and final statement" whenever "[t]here are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." The errors

94-1

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and corrections to the Gilberton DEIS clearly qualify under this requirement. Thus, in order to complete the NEPA review process, DOE must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the updated information.

Given the important implications of these substantive corrections and additions to the Gilberton EIS for global warming and for the Clean Coal Power Initiative, NRDC believes that the revised EIS should be made available for public comment before the final EIS is issued.

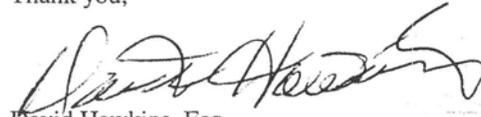
94-1

Table 1. Reported versus Actual CO₂ Emissions from the Gilberton Coal-to-Liquids Plant

CO ₂ emissions reported in draft EIS	0.8 million tons CO ₂ /year
Actual CO ₂ emissions, to appear in corrected EIS	2.3 million tons CO ₂ /year

Please consider and respond to this request for a renewed period of public comment on the revised EIS for the "Gilberton coal-to-clean fuels' and power project."

Thank you,



David Hawkins, Esq.

Director, Climate Center

Natural Resources Defense Council

Comment 94-1:
See letter.

Response:

Sections 4.1.2.2 and 5.1.4 have been revised to reflect additional information on the anticipated CO₂ emissions from the proposed action. A Supplement to the Draft EIS was issued in January 2007. The Supplement (contained in Appendix E) described corrections to the CO₂ emission totals and related information.