August 4, 2011

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode: 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Docket ID Nos. EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0044; EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234

RE: Comments of Environmental and Public Health Groups, "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units; Proposed Rule, 76 Fed. Reg. 24976 (May 3, 2011)

Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters who stand to benefit from cleaner air and improved health, we wish to thank you for proposing long-overdue standards to protect communities from hazardous air emissions from coal and oil-fired power plants, including substances known to adversely affect public health, such as mercury, nickel and other toxic metals, as well as particulate matter (soot) and acid gases. Research has shown that even in small amounts these air pollutants are linked to health problems such as cancer, heart disease, brain damage, birth defects, asthma attacks and premature death.

Issuance and timely compliance by existing sources with final air toxics rules will result in many thousands of lives saved from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, especially in lower income and ethnic neighborhoods where exposure to a mixture of these pollutants is highest. In

fact, each year, the proposed rule would prevent 6,800-17,000 premature deaths, 11,000 heart attacks, 120,000 asthma attacks, and 850,000 missed work or "sick" days. EPA's Regulatory Impact Analysis estimates the monetary benefits of this rule at well over $50 billion, a figure which does not account for significant environmental or ecosystem benefits.

We offer these comments in strong support of the rule. Where appropriate, we have also included suggestions which we believe would improve the rule. We applaud EPA's proposal of these long-overdue rules, and urge the Agency to finalize standards that will provide the public health and environmental protections communities across America deserve.

Sincerely,

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