



For Immediate Release
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OEC hails AMP decision to halt dirty coal plant

Decision belies myth that dirty power is cheap power

(Columbus, OH) — The Ohio Environmental Council is hailing the announcement today by American Municipal Power-Ohio (AMP-Ohio) that it has cancelled plans to construct a proposed 1,000-megawatt coal-fired power plant on the Ohio River in Meigs County.

Ever-growing costs doomed the plant, as cost projections grew from \$2.5 billion just two years ago to close to \$4 billion, today.

Statement by Trent Dougherty, OEC Staff Attorney and Director of Legal Affairs:

“AMP-Ohio’s wise decision belies the myth that dirty power is cheap power. Financial institutions, major utilities, government regulators and public power organizations across the nation have come to the conclusion that conventional coal makes little sense economically or environmentally. Today, that realization came to American Municipal Power (AMP) as AMP has abandoned plans to build yet another coal plant.

“We are pleased that AMP-Ohio has concluded that dirty power is bad business. Now, AMP Ohio can get back to the business of doing what it does best -- being a leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency in this state.

“For years, we and our allies have presented data to AMP executives, to utility and environmental regulators, and to dozens of city governments that would be stuck with the bill for this plant, projecting that this old-fashioned coal plant was burdened with unknown costs to consumers and unsubstantiated risks to our environment. Years ago, AMP-Ohio’s plant and rationale for building it may have made sense, but the regulatory landscape has fundamentally shifted.”

The OEC, along with its partners Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club are in litigation over this plant, appealing air and water pollution permits issued last year by Ohio EPA. The coal plant was slated to burn at least 2.8 million tons of coal and each year release the following air pollution each year: up to 6,820 tons of sulfur dioxide, 3,194 tons of nitrogen oxide, 1,182 tons of particulate matter, 343 tons of sulfuric acid mist, 166.87 tons of volatile organic compounds, 880 pounds of lead, and 192 pounds of mercury.

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The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities. For more information, visit www.theOEC.org.