

- According to the EPA, 72% of all toxic water pollution in the country comes from coal-fired power plants, making coal plants the number one source of toxic water pollution in the U.S.
- 4 out of 5 coal plants in the country have no limits on the amount of toxic heavy metals they can dump into our waterways, polluting our drinking water, fishing areas, and local rivers.
- Each year coal plants dump millions of tons of toxic metals like arsenic, selenium, boron, cadmium, mercury, and lead into our waterways. Exposure to these dangerous chemicals can lead to birth defects, cancer and even death.
- Existing laws written to limit toxics discharged from coal plants are 30 years old and do not cover many of the worst pollutants.

PROBLEM

EPA Coal Plant Water Pollution Standards Sierra Club 4/19/2013

- In April 2013 the Environmental Protection Agency released the first ever national standards for toxics dumped into waterways from coal plants.
- These “Effluent Limitation Guidelines” are the first time standards for water pollution from coal plants have been updated in more than 30 years.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has repeatedly acknowledged that the existing guidelines have not kept pace with developments in the industry and have failed to address the worst pollutants in our waterways.

SOLUTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency’s new guidelines for coal plant water pollution will, for the first time, set national standards that limit the amount of toxic chemicals that are dumped into our waterways.
- These standards will also require all coal plants to monitor and report the amount of toxics dumped into our water, giving us detailed information for the first time about the types and amounts of dangerous chemicals in our water.
- Limiting the amount of toxics in our water through these commonsense and affordable standards will save lives, prevent children from getting sick, and ensure our water is safe to drink and our fish safe to eat.

BENEFIT

CALL TO ACTION

- Submit a comment to the Environmental Protection Agency and President Obama telling them you support the new safeguards for toxic water pollution from coal plants.
- Attend a hearing and testify in support of these critical safeguards.
- Visit <http://action.sierraclub.org/wastewater> to learn more and take action.