



RUTH HEIFETZ, M.D., M.P.H.
 SENIOR LECTURER
 DEPT. OF FAMILY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, 0628
 LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0628

OFFICE: (858) 534-4613

FAX: (858) 534-7517

E-MAIL: rheifetz@ucsd.edu

California Energy Commission Workshop (CEC) May 12, 2008
 Proposed MMC Power Plant Expansion

The proposed expansion of the MMC Power Plant represents a serious risk to families in the area. To the general population and especially to the vulnerable populations living or going to school nearby. The young children, pregnant women, individuals with heart or lung problems, especially children with asthma, and our older residents.

We currently live in an area with air pollution above safe levels. To add to that burden, especially with low particle size pollutants represents a serious threat to the public's health.

There are now numerous scientific studies documenting the fact that as air pollution OF THE SMALL PARTICLE VARIETY INCREASES, death from all causes (1), and the increased risk of death from specific conditions ---lung cancer and heart disease. (1)

Increased occurrence of lung and heart disease also have been linked to small particle pollution. (2)

Recent research also suggests that there is a worsening of the symptoms of people who have common chronic diseases like congestive heart failure. (3)

The well respected Harvard Six City Study that documented the association of increased fine particle air pollution with acute and chronic death (1) - had a follow-up study examining the impact of subsequent reduced levels of particle pollution in those same cities --- and found a decrease the risk of death (4). A reversible impact!!

In 2005 an article in JAMA reported an increase in thickening and hardening of the arteries in individuals living in areas with > levels of small particle pollution (5)

A recent article in NEJM reported that long-term exposure to fine particles was associated with increased occurrence of cardiovascular disease and death in postmenopausal women (6)

Perhaps the most worrisome impacts of this pollution^{are} on children:
Ambient fine PM associated with associated with intra - uterine growth retardation (small babies), infant mortality (postneonatal mortality) , increased respiratory symptoms in asthmatics,

USC study in NEJM 2004, linked less developed lungs in children who lived in the more polluted areas of southern CA (followed between ages 10 and 18). (7)

Fine particulate matter is linked both to:

To increased childhood asthma occurrence

And as a trigger (exacerbates episodes of asthma in children with asthma

Higher exposure to fine PM, immature state of the lungs in childhood, issues of immune function at birth. Early infants- pregnancy - children

Protect the health of our community- Do not add to air pollution (small particle)

Do not expand the existing plant- >> dangerous air pollution

Develop alternative energy sources - going green- solar, wind, waves, geothermal

Respect the Chula Vista Community Plan

Promote Environmental Justice

In conclusion:

The human suffering and dollar costs of failing to protect our most vulnerable citizens- will leave a tragic legacy of unfulfilled potential, illness and early death—

Our children - will be the ones most impacted by this plant-- they are our future,

Please do not permit this expansion !



Heifetz- References

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2. Pope, CA et al. Lung cancer, cardiopulmonary mortality, and long term exposure to fine particulate air pollution. *JAMA* 287:1132 2002
3. Symons, JM et al. A Case-Crossover Study of Fine Particulate Matter Air Pollution and onset of Congestive heart failure Symptom Exacerbation Leading to hospitalization. *Am. J. Epidemiology* :421. 2006
4. Laden, F. et al. Reduction in Fine particle Air pollution and Mortality. *Am. J. of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* **173**: 667, 2006
5. Kunzli, N. et al. Ambient air pollution and atherosclerosis in LA. *EHP*:113:201. 2005
6. Miller, KA, et al. Long-Term Exposure to Air Pollution and Incidence of Cardiovascular Events in Women. *NEJM* **356**: 2007
7. Gauderman, WJ. et al. The Effect of Air Pollution on Lung Development from 10 to 18 Years of Age. *NEJM* **351**:1057 2004
8. Heinrich, J., Slama, R. Fine particles, a major threat to children. *Int. J. Hyg. Environ. Health* **210**:617. 2007

Date:
Christopher Myers
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: CVEUP

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Energy Commission needs to reject the Chula Vista Peaker Plant Upgrade project because it is too close to residents, schools, and non-industrial businesses. The CV General Plan requires a 1,000-foot buffer for power plants. This is minimal and would be violated by this project.

See attached _____

Sincerely,

Name

Reem Heifetz

Address

UCSD School of Medicine
9500 Gilman Drive
LA Jolla CA 92093-0628