



Our Children's Earth Foundation | 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, CA 94105

NEWS RELEASE

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Group Joins Lawsuit Against TVA Plant for Clean Air Act Violations

San Francisco, CA — An environmental group today joined a lawsuit against the Bull Run Fossil Plant in Clinton, Tennessee, alleging that the plant is violating the federal Clean Air Act. In 2002, the coal-fired Bull Run power plant emitted more than 42,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and nearly 18,000 tons of nitrogen oxides.

Our Children's Earth (OCE) was granted entrance the case originally brought by the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) against the Bull Run plant in 2001.

“We are concerned for the people who live in and around power plants like Bull Run,” said Tiffany Schauer, OCE's executive director. “Studies show that sulfur dioxide, which Bull Run emits in tremendous amounts, quickly transforms in the atmosphere into minute sulfate particles that EPA has recognized pose health risks to children and the elderly in particular.”

The Clean Air Act allowed old plants like Bull Run to continue operating without modern pollution controls as long as they did not undergo major plant overhauls to extend the life of these facilities and increased emissions. The groups' suit alleges that TVA secretly made such a modification in 1988 and should have operated with economical, state-of-the-art pollution controls from then on.

“TVA says it has plans to control sulfur dioxide from Bull Run, but it wants to sell pollution control credits from the cleanup to other plants so they won't have to install controls,” said Schauer. “One goal of this suit is to keep that dangerous pollution out of the air permanently.”

This December, EPA will make a final determination that the Knoxville area does not meet minimal health standards for this type of small-particle pollution called PM2.5. In addition to the health problems attributable to facilities like Bull Run, the plant's acid-rain causing and visibility impairing emissions also contribute to the degradation of Great Smoky Mountains

National Park, ranked by NPCA as America's most polluted national park. TVA concedes that "TVA sulfur dioxide emissions could contribute 18 percent to sulfate and 19 percent to nitrate deposited in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

"America's most-visited national park is also its most polluted," said Don Barger, senior director of NPCA's Southeast regional office. "Outdated coal-fired power plants degrade national parks across the country. And that same pollution travels across the farm yards and school yards of our communities. It's long past time for plants like Bull Run to clean up the air we all breathe."

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