



**News Release**  
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**OCE-funded lawsuit helps clean-up of Texas power plant**

Two environmental groups settled a federal lawsuit forcing American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), the nation's largest utility company, to clean up extensive air pollution problems at its Welsh power plant operation near Pittsburg in Titus County in east Texas.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Texas office of Public Citizen filed the 2005 complaint in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Texas, alleging that AEP's Southwest Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) division power plant was emitting levels of soot (also known as "particulate matter") and carbon monoxide far in excess of what is allowed under the federal Clean Air Act and the laws of the state of Texas.

Columbus, Ohio-based AEP is the largest electricity generator in the United States. AEP directly or through wholly owned subsidiaries owns and operates approximately 80 power plants, more than 50 of which are coal-fired power plants and is among the largest electric utilities in the United States, serving more than five million customers through its 11-state electricity transmission and distribution grid. AEP reported 2003 revenues of \$14.5 billion. AEP owns and operates the Welsh Plant through its wholly owned subsidiary, Southwestern Electric Power Company. The Welsh Power Plant is a coal-fired power plant with three coal-fired boiler units generating a total 1,650 megawatts of electric power.

Under the terms of the settlement, AEP has committed to purchase or build 65 megawatts of new renewable, non-carbon generating capacity in the states within SWEPCO service area by end of 2010. AEP will also install particulate matter continuous emission monitors by end of 2010. This will be the first PM emission monitors in Texas, at a plant that had previously stack tested for PM only once in 22 years.

"This case has helped set legal precedents in Texas and around the country to help clean up these dirty power plants," said Tiffany Schauer, executive director of Our Children's Earth. "We were pleased to be able to assist in the case."

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