

**Power Plant Forum
August 22, 2006
Post-Forum Questionnaire Results**

Coal-fired power plant development in Kentucky and our region: What is your position on the following options?

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
1. Stay the course. No more regulation. The current system works fine.	23	9	2	1	1
2. Halt construction of new coal-fired power plants.	15	7	4	5	5
3. Allow new plants to be built, but insist on higher standards, better regulation, end loopholes and emissions trading.	0	1	1	16	18
4. Conserve and invest in renewable energy alternatives.	0	2	1	9	25
5. Other					
#3 condition – close dirtier plants in exchange					
Build with local people					
Solar power					
Nuclear					
Moratorium on new plants					

Our priorities should focus on:

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
Economic development and good jobs	1	5	2	1	1
Protecting our environment	0	0	1	9	26
Protecting the public from harmful pollutants	0	0	2	10	25
Other					
We have the creativity to develop solutions using all the above					
Jobs take priority					
Why not hand in hand?					
Regarding economic development & good jobs, doesn't have to be either or.					
Non-polluting good jobs					

I am willing to pay higher taxes and utility rates for cleaner, safer air and water.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	1	1	1	8	25

To reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we should:

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
Increase coal production, even at the cost of environmental quality	19	9	4	4	1
Increase coal production, but only if environmental safeguards are in place	3	4	6	13	11
Reduce/phase out coal production and invest in clean, renewable energy alternatives	5	8	6	6	11
Other					
Look for various energy alternatives					
Conservation, public transportation					
Need incentives					

New power plants should only be allowed as older, more polluting plants are phased out.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	6	2	5	12	11

To reduce environmental and public health dangers, Kentucky should stop building power plants that serve other areas.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	8	7	3	12	7

Kentucky's coal reserves represent a unique and valuable natural resource that we should maximize through mining and coal-fired power plants.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	10	4	3	11	9

We should find alternatives to coal because mining is dangerous, harmful to the landscape and ecosystem, and the burning of coal pollutes our air and water.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	3	9	2	11	12

Coal mining is an important occupation for our region and should be supported while safety is improved.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	2	8	5	11	11

Surface mine reclamation leaves the land in good, if not better condition, than it was before the mining occurred.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	8	7	6	12	4

The damage from mountaintop removal in eastern Kentucky is greatly exaggerated and the technique results in valuable flat land for development.

	disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
	5	10	9	2	1

Mountaintop mining is devastating to the environment and should be prohibited.

disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	not sure	agree somewhat	agree strongly
2	3	8	9	14

Comments

As a Generation Xer, I care whether or not I live next to a coal-fired power plant, whether or not my sky is blue or whether or not my family is at a greater risk for cancer or MS because I live near power plants. Is it worth the potential risk to my family's health? I'm not sure it is. The bottom line seems to come down to money. Is the cost of burning coal worth the health risk? What of my children's environmental future?

Information is essential. New ideas are always formed.

Great forum. Great information. We need to follow up to mobilize community region and state. This has to be a bigger than Owensboro effort.

Great program! I was impressed with the environmental concerns of business people.

More focus on nuclear alternative and global warming.

New mining/coal conversion technology needs to be developed ASAP and supported through federal grants.

New new modern power plants in this area.

Nice format, generally higher interest of participants.

Public health should be a priority above any other.

Demographic Information

Age

1 under 18
1 18-29
7 30-44
19 45-64
9 65 or more

Gender

22 man
14 woman

Residence

17 City of Owensboro
10 Outside the city in Daviess County
8 Other
 Newburgh, IN (2)
 Henderson (1)
 Evansville, IN (2)
 Louisville (1)

I vote

31 in every election
5 in most elections
0 in some elections
0 never

Race

37 white
0 African American
0 Indian
0 Hispanic
0 Asian

Have you completed

1 grade school or less
1 some high school
4 high school/GED
4 vocational/technical school
4 some college
7 college
21 postgraduate work

A candidate's position on this issue

30 would be a pivotal issue that
 determines my vote
6 would not be a pivotal issue for
 me

Forum Assessment

Prior to this forum, did you consider yourself

- 12 well informed about coal-fired power plant issues and choices
- 18 somewhat informed about coal-fired power plant issues and choices
- 4 not very informed about coal-fired power plant issues and choices

As a result of your participation in this forum, do you now consider yourself

- 28 better informed
- 6 about as informed as before
- 0 less informed

Did the forum present balanced points of view? 32 yes 1 no

Was information presented in a clear and understandable manner? 33 yes 0 no

Did the information presented during the forum

- 0 not have enough detail
- 34 have about the right amount of detail
- 0 have too much detail

Comments:

Right amount of detail for the audience

Did the forum help you come to judgment about coal-fired power plant issues and choices? 26 yes 6 no

Was the discussion format effective? 33 yes 1 no

Comments:

More time

Do you feel that it is important for citizens to express their views about coal-fired power plant issues and choices? 34 yes 0 no

Would you recommend that others participate in a similar forum? 34 yes 0 no

Other comments/suggestions about the forum:

What a wonderful forum. We need more like this in Newburgh and Evansville, Indiana.

Thanks for offering this. It was a great event.

Discussion was totally disorganized - need for table coordinators.
Thank you very much. Doris Haragan 2978 Turfway Ave. 42303

Thanks.

Some/most of the material focused on health statistics, detriment to the environment. None regarding economic impact or quotes from mining companies.

Wonderful event -- democracy at work!

Follow-up with similar, more informed participants.

Great evening.