



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
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Resolution Regarding the Coal Fired Power Prohibition Act 2013

Whereas, the DC City Council will soon consider “legislation” called the Coal Fired Power Prohibition Act of 2013, and

Whereas, the Capital Power Plant at 25 E Street SE burns coal in order to generate steam to heat the United States Capital, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and other buildings in Capital Hill and is the only power plant in the District of Columbia using coal as a power source¹ and is the largest source of carbon emissions in Washington, DC², and

Whereas, the Capital Power Plant is located in downtown DC in the heart of Capital Hill just four blocks from the United States Capital and within a block of numerous homes and businesses³, and

Whereas, coal fired power plants emit 84 of the 187 hazardous air pollutants identified by the EPA among them mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons⁴, and

Whereas, coal fired power plants also emit sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter which can cause chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma and premature death⁵, and

Whereas, according to a report by the NAACP and others, coal fired power plants disproportionately impact the health and well-being of members of low income and minority communities⁶, and

¹ <http://www.aoc.gov/capitol-buildings/capitol-power-plant>

² http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/09/us/politics/just-across-town-a-test-of-obamas-emissions-goals.html?_r=0

³ <https://www.google.com/maps/place/25+E+St+SE/@38.8848801,-77.0077314,16z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x89b7b82b2ab4392b:0xa52bbc1dd0515389>

⁴ http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/text_version/locations.php?id=155

⁵ http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/coalvswind/c02c.html

⁶ http://naacp.3cdn.net/572d5c97907700910c_1ykm6bi00.pdf &
http://www.energyjustice.net/files/coal/Air_of_Injustice.pdf

Whereas, the Capital Power Plant receives its coal via trains and the transport of coal via rail leads to many of the same localized pollution issues associated with burning coal along rail corridors⁷, and

Whereas, the mining of coal is often environmentally destructive particularly when mountaintop coal mining is used⁸ and disposal of coal slurry associated with coal mining has serious negative environmental impacts and also adversely impacts workers exposed to it⁹, and

Whereas, President Barack Obama recently proposed regulations which could, if enacted, cut carbon emissions from existing coal plants in the United States by 30% by the year 2030¹⁰, and

Whereas, a combination of conservation, efficiency, solar hot water, solar photovoltaic, wind-powered electric heat pumps and air conditioning, and energy storage can likely meet the heating and cooling needs of the Capitol complex without needing the Capitol Power Plant,

Whereas, under this proposed legislation coal would be prohibited as a fuel source for power and steam generation in the District of Columbia as of January 1, 2016.

Now therefore be it resolved, because of the local health impacts and local and global environmental impacts as well as its role as the leading global warming gas ANC 3E urges the DC City Council to immediately pass the Coal Fired Power Prohibition Act of 2013. We further urge the City Council to encourage the Architect of the Capitol to study the potential to eliminate the need for the Capitol Power Plant through implementing on-site, non-burn, clean energy solutions, and to look at how much of this can be financed through the sale of the valuable power plant site.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on June 12, 2014, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Matthew Frumin, Tom Quinn and Sam Serebin were present.

ANC 3E



By Matthew Frumin, Chairperson

⁷ <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/02/10/3270701/coal-rail-lines-health/>

⁸ <http://www.plunderingappalachia.org/theissue.htm>

⁹ <http://www.sludgesafety.org/what-coal-slurry>

¹⁰ http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/epa-to-propose-cutting-carbon-dioxide-emissions-from-coal-plants-30percent-by-2030/2014/06/01/f5055d94-e9a8-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html