From: Mary Miller
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:50:04 PM

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Dear Director Glatt,

My husband is a VFR private pilot and we have flown in and around North Dakota for decades. We also farm in ND. So we do pay a lot of attention to the weather and to the skies and to visibility.
One thing that I can state with absolute certainty is that when our skies are hazy is when there are fires in Canada. Over the years, there have been instances when the visibility has been too poor for us to fly and that has ALWAYS been when there is smoke in the atmosphere from fires in Canada.
Our air quality is directly impacted by fires that are not from here.
I would also like to point out that my husband and I have talked about how we have noticed the power plants have cleaned up their emissions as our skies no longer have that orange streak that was visible back in the 70's and 80's.
I also would like to add that during the spring and summer I hang my clothes outside to dry on the clothes line. My clothes smell so nice and clean!
Logic would tell you that with 5 coal plants in this area that our air would not be very good, but as a resident here; I can say that is not the case. Our plants have done a very good job of cleaning up their emissions and they should be applauded and encouraged to continue along that path by your support and to support them to share their knowledge with other coal plants.

I am writing to you as a supporter of abundant, balanced, reliable, low-cost energy. A diverse set of energy resources is crucial for our region, and coal-based electricity must continue to be part of the equation. I support retaining coal as a regional energy source that will help keep electric rates low, jobs plentiful, and our economy robust. Coal has been and will continue to provide the source for power we can depend on.

More importantly, North Dakota's coal industry is a good neighbor. In accordance with DEQ's visibility plan, the industry has significantly invested in its power plants over the last decade to ensure the state continues boasting the cleanest air in the country. These investments reduced emissions by 66% and put the state well ahead of the path to eliminating visibility impairment in its parks by 2064-the goal set by the United States EPA.

State researchers report that wildfires and international emissions are the primary causes of visibility impairment. In 2020, North Dakota experienced long episodes of visibility impairment throughout summer and fall due these emissions, which the state cannot control. Due to the continued drought in far western regions, state experts believe this trend could continue. Costly new regulations imposed on power plants will not address this concern-instead, resources should be dedicated to reducing the fires that are the source of the haze.

I understand DEQ may be under pressure to impose new controls on power plants, even though power plants are not the primary cause of visibility impairment and new controls would not meaningfully improve visibility. Therefore, I urge support for the implementation plan developed by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that ensures our region continues to benefit from clean and clear air along with reliable, affordable electricity supply, today and in the future.

Sincerely,

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