From: Tamara Heilman
To: DOH, Air Quality
Subject: Regional Haze Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:50:12 PM

***** CAUTION: This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe. *****

Dear Director Glatt,

I live only a few miles from a coal fired power plant, there is no haze, we need to keep the coal fired power plants in ND up and running to keep our electricity costs down. 20 years ago the steam rolling from the stacks had a grayish hue to them, for the last decade the money that has been invested in the power plants have made the steam that rolls from the stacks now pure white. If there is visible haze in the parks, it is Not from the power plants in ND. Wildfires and international emissions re to blame, I've been to Canada and have seen the dirty emissions billowing from a plant there. Why do people in China wear masks just to go outside? They are all about making money, not regulating emissions so they have good air quality.

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,

Tamara Heilman
PO Box 291
Center, ND 58530
theilman64@icloud.com