



Given AEP's abysmal environmental and public health record, can we really expect anything more than superficial "green-washing" of their corporate image?

- AEP is the single largest emitter of CO₂ in the US (6th largest in the world).¹ Per energy unit produced, AEP emits over 200% more CO₂² than most similarly sized energy producers.
- Even when other utility companies are asking for mandatory, across the board CO₂ standards, Mr. Morris and AEP has relentlessly lobbied for "voluntary only" emissions reductions^{3,4} and actively opposed a national renewable fuel standard. This lobbying has seriously damaged congresses ability to pass meaningful climate change legislation.^{5,6}
- In late 2007, AEP was fined \$4.6 billion (the largest environmental enforcement settlement in US history) for making substantial capacity upgrades to 16 "grandfathered" power-plants without reporting these capacity upgrades or installing required emissions controls.⁷
- Although AEP flaunts the few voluntary carbon offsets it has chosen to make⁸, these offsets represent the bare minimum that can be done and are intended merely to distract the publics attention from the disproportionate amount of carbon which AEP emits.⁹

Do we really have to rely on energy sources that threaten people's lives and well-being, when other options are available?

- AEP operates 12 of the 51 coal fired power plants charged with willfully violating the Clean Air Act, this is more than any other service provider. These illegal plants have contributed to more than 100,000 asthma attacks each year, have resulted in over \$32 billion in annual health care costs¹⁰ and have cut short the lives of over 1,200 people!¹¹
- AEP's Clinch River Plant in Carbo, VA is responsible for 59 premature deaths per year.¹²
- African American and Latino communities disproportionately suffer the effects of power plant air pollution: 68% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant and in the Midwest the majority of coal-fired power plants are located within Latino communities.¹³

Is it truly ethical to use coal, an energy source that is actively destroying communities and devastating one of the most biodiversity regions in earth, just to have cheap energy?

- American Electric Power is the largest consumer of coal in the Western Hemisphere and accounts for 25% of the mountaintop removal (MTR) coal leaving West Virginia each year.¹⁴
- 560 miles of Appalachian headwater streams have already been buried by MTR and valley fills.¹⁵
- Neither the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act nor the Clean Water Act require the mountains to be reforested after they are mined. In fact, the soil will be unsuitable for forests for thousands of years—permanently destroying the biodiversity of the region.¹⁶
- MTR destroys communities through round the clock blasting which cracks home's foundations, drastically decreases property value. MTR also increases erosion and flash flooding due to less vegetation, contaminates waterways with acid mine run off and slurry waste and employs far less people than traditional mining methods.
- When coal comes from MTR, There is No Such Thing as "Clean Coal".

- Coal combustion waste (CCW) is the by-product of burning coal and is another expensive externality of coal power that is little known to the public. CCW contains a concentration of heavy metals that can leach from the waste landfills upon contact with water.
- The US EPA has identified countless damage cases involving CCW contamination in rivers and human drinking water, causing fish kills and drastically elevated cancer risks.
- Despite staunch citizen objections, AEP has plans to install a CCW waste pond in Giles County, VA, under a legal loophole that actually considers the toxic landfill *beneficial*.¹⁷

Coal to Liquid technology (CTL) is being proposed by AEP as a smart, economic, and greener alternative than oil. However, AEP is misleading the public--CTL is much more expensive than other energy sources and not clean at all.

- CTL releases almost double the global warming emissions per gallon as regular gasoline.¹⁸
- To replace just 10% of our nation's transportation fuels would lead to an over 40% increase in coal mining.
- CTL require billions of dollars of federal subsidies to create this entirely new industry—subsidies which would be better spent on truly renewable wind and solar power.. Estimates by the DoE put the construction costs at \$7 billion in 2004, which does not account for the increasing cost of transportation and doesn't account for the steady increase in the price of construction and materials, or carbon capture estimates.¹⁹ This translates to a cost of \$100,000 for each barrel of output.²⁰

The process of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is something the coal industry, including AEP, has staked its future on. This process is very inefficient and expensive, poses risks to human health, and it is dubious as to whether it will make a difference in offsetting our CO2 emissions.

- 1/4 of the energy CSS plants produce is consumed in operating themselves. Because of the outrageous cost of CSS the DOE recently pulled public support for AEP's FutureGen plant.²¹
- Captured CO₂ usually needs to be transported somewhere else to be buried. Good quality reservoirs for containing the CO₂ are rare, and if geosequestration were to be practiced on the scale needed to offset emissions, the world would quickly run out of good reservoirs. Once injected into the ground, it must be closely monitored, because if it were to escape, it can kill.
- Estimates predict that CCS will take care of at most 10% of CO₂ emissions by 2050.

Renewable are ready now and competitive with the cost of clean coal retrofits, so it all comes down to economics. Can AEP uphold environmental and economic honesty by demanding policies that favor renewable energy rather than fossil fuels? Without its government subsidies, can AEP compete with renewables?

- U.S. DOE studies have concluded wind harvested in just three of the fifty U.S. states could provide enough electricity to power the entire nation, and that offshore wind farms could do the same job.
- The DOE has stated that solar energy is on tract to reduce the cost of electricity to \$0.05-\$0.10/ KWh and be competitive in markets nationwide by 2015.
- In contrast, nuclear power costs are extremely high; the CEO of Duke Energy estimates the total cost of power is expected to be around 7-12 cents per Kwh. Reprocessing of spent fuel creates new waste streams of solid waste. This waste still needs to be deposited in a deep geologic repository.
- "Legislation to control greenhouse gas emissions would make renewable energy sources competitive with conventional fuels 'overnight'."²²

