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Citizens and Environmentalists File Comments in Opposition to Associated Electric's Proposed Coal Fired Power Plant near Norborne, MO

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Great Rivers Environmental Law Center filed comments to the USDA on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Carroll County (the C4 Association) and the Sierra Club denouncing the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for AECI's proposed new coal-fired power plant for Norborne, Missouri.

The organizations are expressing their criticism of the DEIS for several reasons, including the fact that the DEIS was prepared by the applicant and not an outside consultant. In addition, the groups argue that AECI failed to consider the cumulative effects on global warming that the plant will have as there are over 150 plants proposed for the United States.

The DEIS also fails to consider the cumulative effects of pollutants, especially of mercury. This is important given the bio-accumulative effects of mercury, the widespread contamination of waters leading to statewide advisories against eating fish, and the leading role of coal-fired power plants as a source of mercury. There were no studies relating to the combined (synergistic) effects of these emissions.

"Associated should meet its customers' energy needs by helping them use energy more efficiently," said Henry Roberston, Staff Attorney at Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "Conservation and efficiency are the wave of the future."

"The DEIS gives the impression that there will be no harmful impacts from this project. We don't agree. The many pollutants in the emissions and toxic waste landfill of a coal-fired power plant are well-documented, as are the health risks from these pollutants," stated Grace West of the C4 Association. "Alternative methods of generating power should have been thoroughly researched."

The C4 Association and the Sierra Club want the USDA to make certain that all of their comments and questions are satisfactorily addressed in the final environmental impact statement.

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.