

From: [Harold Hoem](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Testimony in favor of early closure of Colstrip
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 9:14:00 AM

Janice Hoem
16 Greenbrier Lane
Missoula, MT 59802
phone 406.327-1290

I'm Jan Hoem of Missoula, Montana. I was an educator, an EMT in the Methow Valley for eight years, and recently fourteen years on Missoula's Air Quality Advisory Council.

In Montana, legislative support is strong for all fossil fuels, and climate change is dismissed by the majority. I have spoken to them on health issues but it's a tough sell.

Dr. Steve Running, Pulitzer Prize-winning climate scientist, repeatedly says, "If we're serious about climate change, the first thing we have to do is stop burning coal."

The Colstrip Power Plant burns one train-car load of coal every five minutes. Daily Colstrip emits a cocktail of mercury, lead, arsenic and other heavy metals, with many particulates so small the lungs don't expel them. They can pass into the bloodstream and do great harm. Airborne, they can enter the food chain through soil and water.

Two concerns:

One. Pollution from Colstrip contributes to the atmospheric soup that affects the one in twelve of Montana's kids who have asthma, causing more frequent and damaging attacks. Asthma can kill. It is a disease that has no cure, though some will outgrow it. Scar tissue accumulates, so today's child with asthma can become tomorrow's adult with severe lung disease and a shortened lifespan.

Two. Colstrip is a major source of mercury which attacks a child's neurologic system and development. There is no known safe amount. Infants born to mothers with high exposure to mercury bear children with lower birthweight and weaker lungs. Many children born in the US have blood mercury levels high enough to impair performance and cause lifelong loss of intelligence. In adults, mercury has been implicated in Alzheimers.

The sooner Colstrip totally shuts down, the better. I ask you to show the way.
Thank you.