
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Concerns Regarding Valley Power Plant go to Public Works Committee

Alderman Bauman says utility hasn't delivered on promised changes at plant

Environmental concerns regarding the WE Energies Menomonee Valley Coal Plant and unfulfilled promises by the utility to convert the plant from coal to natural gas has prompted **Alderman Robert J. Bauman**, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, to schedule a public hearing on a communication file to update council members and city residents on the environmental issues and the status of the plant.

The Public Works Committee will take up the valley coal power plant file when it meets at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, September 28) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Alderman Bauman said recent reports indicate that the valley coal plant is the oldest (1960s) and most environmentally destructive plant operated by WE Energies, lacking modern pollution controls and providing a significant source of soot and smog which are linked to serious health problems like asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes. He said more than 24,000 people, many of whom are his constituents, live within a mile of the plant and suffer the worst consequences of the plant's pollution.

According to Alderman Bauman, Milwaukee is consistently given failing grades for its air quality, and Milwaukee and its surrounding counties currently violate health standards for soot and smog.

Alderman Bauman indicated that these reports show that:

-More-

Valley Coal Plant/ADD ONE

- The valley coal plant is a significant source of ozone (smog) and particulate pollution (soot) that can lead to serious respiratory illness, and on days when air pollution levels are high, the city sees more frequent, severe and deadly asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes.
- According to a report commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force, fine particulate pollution from the valley coal plant was estimated to cost \$280 million in health care related expenses.
- Milwaukee has been consistently named among the worst places to live with asthma by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.
- The valley coal plant draws 110,800 gallons of water per minute from the Menomonee River, pulverizes fish and other aquatic life in the process, heats the water to high temperatures, and dumps the hot water - complete with pulverized fish - back into the river.
- In terms of global warming pollution, coal is the dirtiest fuel burned in power plants. The valley coal plant pumps almost 2 million tons of carbon dioxide into the city's air annually - equal to the emissions of more than 300,000 cars.
- Milwaukee County was ranked among the dirtiest 10% of all counties in the U.S. for toxic chemicals released by power plants and industry, with the valley coal plant ranked as the top polluter in the city. (www.sourcewatch.org).