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EPA Toxic Water Pollution from Power Plants (or ELG) Proposed Rule Public Hearings
How To Prepare My Testimony

As you prepare for the EPA's public hearing on its proposed power plant water pollution standards (or Effluent Limitation Guidelines on Tuesday, July 9th, here are a few important tips:

- Time Limit is 5 Minutes: all testimony will be limited to this time-frame
 - **Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words**
 - Your 5 minute comments should not exceed 750 words, which is slightly more than one page of text
 - Write your comments down, time yourself, and practice them in front of the mirror and in front of friends and family so that you are familiar with what you want to say.
- Speaking Tips:
 - Speak slowly and clearly
 - Make eye contact with members of the audience
- Include a few key facts:
 - Sierra Club has sample talking points on toxic water from power plants. Pick one or two facts to frame your personal comments.
 - **Don't worry about highly technical information.**
 - This hearing is focused on pretreatment section of the proposed rule. We would recommend that you include a couple of the following points in your statement to help stay within the scope of the hearing.
 - While the EPA has called this hearing specifically on the "pretreatment" part of the proposed water pollution standards, the agency needs to listen more broadly.
 - It is important that EPA hear from the public on the rule as a whole, because so many of us are affected by coal waste in our local rivers, lakes and streams.
 - That is especially true here, because the vast majority of power plants don't use public water treatment facilities.
 - I understand that the pretreatment standards which EPA has proposed are basically identical to the proposal for plants discharging right to our waterways. Both sets of standards need to be as stringent as possible.
 - EPA should be setting zero discharge standards, and requiring rigorous treatment of toxic heavy metals in any remaining waste
 - This proposed rule is related to a pending coal ash rule still sitting at EPA. If you would like to mention coal ash specifically, feel free to say something like the following:
 - While these coal plant water pollution standards will address pollution in coal plant wastewater, there are many other types of water pollution that still need to be addressed: including coal ash. We encourage you to move forward on those rules as well as soon as possible.
- Make it personal:
 - The proposed power plant water pollution standards (or ELG) will set national standards to limit toxics in wastewater from coal burning plants. These toxins include millions of pounds of toxic

metals like arsenic, selenium, mercury, and lead that are dumped into our waterways. Exposure to these dangerous chemicals can lead to birth defects, cancer and even death. Express your personal concerns about health risks to you and your family/ friends from water pollution from coal plants:

- Do you live near a coal-fired power plant that emits a lot of pollution? Or in a city with bad water quality?
 - Do you swim, fish, boat or use the waterways near your local power plant? How does this pollution affect your activities?
 - Are you an expectant or new mother? Grandparent?
 - Do you or a loved-on suffer from asthma or other respiratory or cardiovascular disease that could be exacerbated by living near a coal plant?
 - Are you a public health professional who serves people suffering from pollution?
 - Are you a teacher, childcare provider, or coach who works with?
 - Are there mercury advisories on the rivers, lakes or streams where you fish?
- These water pollution standards mark a major milestone for the EPA, as they begin to take action on tackling a major source of water pollution in our country. Express your personal concerns about how water pollution affects you and your family/friends.
 - These t long overdue standards, if finalized in their strongest form, will require all coal plants to eliminate their most toxic discharges, and finally use available control technology to treat dangerous heavy metals in their wastewater.. Limiting the amount of toxics in our water through commonsense standards will save lives, prevent children from getting sick, and ensure our water is safe to drink and our fish safe to eat.
 - Powerful industry groups have already succeeded in weakening EPA’s proposal by including weak options. It is vital that EPA selects the most protective options, and rejects interference by big polluters who want to keep on using our waters as their dumping grounds.

Visuals:

- Bring photos or other visual aids to the podium that will help you tell your story
 - Some examples of great visuals from past hearings include:
 - Stacks of petition cards
 - Pictures of polluting coal plants or fish-kills nearby
 - Family portraits
 - Holding your baby with you at the podium, or pushing them in strollers, baby car seats, baby-bjorns. Older children also welcome.
 - Small samples of water from your local lake, river or stream
 - Pictures of you or your community enjoying the water by the power plant (swimming, boating or fishing).
- Bring Three Copies of your Written Testimony:
 - **Please bring THREE hard copies of your testimony. You will want to submit one to the official EPA record, and may also want to give one to a reporter.** Your comments can be typed or hand-written.
- Include your name and contact information:
 - Be sure your testimony includes some form of contact information, but remember, it will become a public document available online.