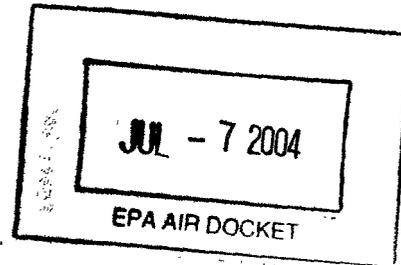


EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)  
U.S. EPA West (6102T)  
Room B-108  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

June 21, 2004



ATTN: Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0056

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am an employee, stockholder and customer of Progress Energy. I am writing to you requesting approval of your cap-and-trade program for mercury. As a design engineer at the Brunswick Nuclear Facility I am unaware of proven technology that currently exists for removal of mercury at the 70 percent levels by 2008. The state of North Carolina in conjunction with the public utilities has taken a leadership role in stack emissions. And you have recognized this in March 2004, when you awarded your "Clean Air Excellence Award" to the state of North Carolina and its environmental and business partners.

Independently the state of North Carolina, Progress Energy, environmental groups and others have worked to freeze utility rates and reduce emissions from coal-fired plants by 2013. This is a significant effort and being implemented in a manner that will not burden utility customers. Progress Energy is investing \$800 million (in addition to \$370 million for NOX emissions) to comply with North Carolinas Clean Smokestacks Act, which will reduce SO2 emissions by 74 percent, NOX emissions by 56 percent and cut mercury emissions by an estimated 65 percent. This is an aggressive program by the State.

The EPA's proposed MACT (maximum achievable control technology) with its proposed 2008 deadline is technically not in the current bag of commercially available resources. That is why I prefer that we deal with proven technology and the cap-and-trade program to significantly reduce smokestack emissions.

As reported on 06-18-04 by the Ashville Times in a story Julie Ball, Progress Energy's first scrubber will go on line in the fall of 2005 with a second scrubber in 2006. This will cost \$175 million and the Skyland plant will be one of the cleanest plants in the entire country. The scrubbers will use a slurry of ground limestone with a byproduct of gypsum. With the improving economy this sounds like a "Win Win" situation, that can easily be accommodated by the cap-and-trade program and in a manner that does not burden the customer.

I urge your consideration and approval of the cap-and-trade program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Curtis Schacher*  
Curtis Schacher