

COAL'S 7 DEADLY THREATS

WHILE BIG COAL CONTINUES TO FLOAT TANTALIZING VISIONS OF A "CLEAN COAL" TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRY SOURCES ADMIT THAT THE FIRST "CLEAN COAL" PLANT CAN'T POSSIBLY GO INTO OPERATION UNTIL THE YEAR 2020 AT THE EARLIEST. UNTIL THEN EVERY NEW COAL-BURNING PLANT BUILT WILL EXPOSE THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD TO THESE 7 DEADLY THREATS:

1. Carbon Dioxide Emissions (CO₂, global warming)

– Electricity generation is responsible for approximately 40% of the total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the U.S. CO₂ (the most abundant greenhouse gas) forms a blanket surrounding the earth and traps heat causing global warming. Burning coal accounts for the largest amount, more than 80 percent, of CO₂ released into the air during electricity production.

2. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) –

contribute greatly to the formation of ozone - a pollutant that contributes to asthma attacks, and nearly 1.8 million emergency room visits were attributed to asthma in 2005. Elevated ozone aggravates other chronic lung diseases and pre-existing heart problems (like angina).

3. Particulate Matter (PM) –

Tiny particles (soot) are released from coal burning and can lodge deep into the lung. Population studies have linked PM to heart impacts and premature death in adults from heart attacks, respiratory disease, and cancer. As many as 24,000 adults die prematurely because of PM pollution. It also is linked with premature birth and low birth weight in newborns.

4. Mercury

– Every year 600,000 infants are born at risk for brain development defects because of their mother's elevated blood mercury levels - raised mainly from eating contaminated fish. The burning of coal is responsible for 42% of all mercury emissions in the U.S.

5. Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

– Coal-fired power plants are the major emitters of noxious gas that irritates the eyes, nose and throat and can cause permanent and irreversible damage to the lungs. In addition, SO₂ is a major contributor to acid rain that destroys forests and crops.

6. Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) –

NO_x worsens air pollution by contributing to the formation of ground level ozone and particulate matter. NO_x decreases oxygen absorption and weakens the strength of the lungs, especially in children and the elderly.

7. Environmental Destruction –

The entire life cycle of coal, which includes mining, transportation, storage, burning and after burn waste disposal, causes a wide range of destruction, including landscape and stream devastation, the release of toxic dust, ash and after burn byproducts that pollutes soil and drinking water.

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
HAS DETERMINED THAT BURNING COAL
IS A DEADLY THREAT TO YOUR HEALTH

**CODE
BLACK**
A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

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