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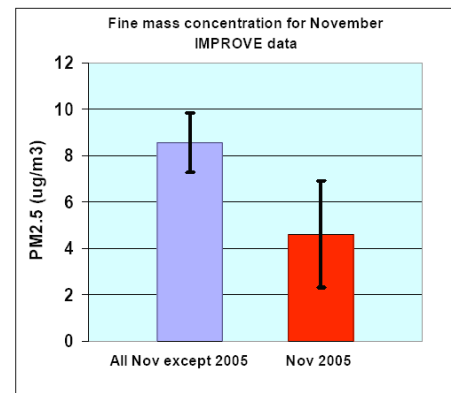
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Scientific Study Links PGE's Boardman Coal Plant to 50% of Columbia Gorge Air Pollution

Groups say report highlights need for strong pollution controls at plant

Portland, OR – A new scientific study from University of Washington air quality expert Dr. Dan Jaffe has found that Portland General Electric's Boardman coal-fired power plant is responsible for up to 50% of the air pollution in the Columbia Gorge during times when air quality in the Gorge is at its worst. This important study highlights why it is critical for PGE to install modern pollution control technologies required under federal law to control pollution from Boardman and protect public health rather than installing the less protective controls PGE has proposed. The study, prepared for the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Reservation, linked changes in air pollution data for the Gorge to the Boardman plant's emissions and found that air pollution levels (measured as particulate pollution technically known as PM_{2.5}) doubled on average when the plant was operating and winds were blowing from the east to the west.

The study found that during PGE's shutdown of the Boardman plant in November 2005- the month of the year when Gorge air quality is at its worst- pollution levels, when compared to 11 other years of data, were cut in half. Conservation groups Sierra Club, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Hells Canyon Preservation Council have filed a notice of intent to sue PGE over its lack of pollution controls at Boardman and they say the study highlights the need for strong new pollution controls at the plant. The groups are being represented by the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (PEAC) at Lewis and Clark Law School.



Excerpt from study compares Gorge pollution levels during the critical November month for air pollution from Nov. 2005 when PGE was not operating to 11 years of data showing double the pollution levels when PGE was operating and winds blew towards the Gorge

In addition to negative air quality and public health impacts, emissions from PGE Boardman also have an adverse effect on the Gorge economy, with particularly negative implications for tourism, recreation and agriculture.

"This really points a finger directly at PGE Boardman," says Mark Riskedahl, Executive Director of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. "Oregon DEQ has repeatedly suggested that no single dominant source is responsible for haze problems in the Gorge, and this study directly refutes that claim."

Michael Lang, Conservation Director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge agrees. "This study really shows why it is critical that PGE puts modern pollution controls on the Boardman plant. If PGE's plan to use less expensive and less efficient controls were allowed air quality in the Gorge would suffer."

"Federal law requires that PGE use industry standard technology to control pollution from Boardman, but for over 25 years PGE has been breaking the law at the cost of Gorge air quality and public health," adds Nat Parker Regional Manager for the Sierra Club. "While we would like PGE to step forward and agree to comply with the law, we have a strong legal case and we're ready to go to court with the science on our side."

"Boardman's pollution emissions are not just a matter of air quality since the plant also has a significant impact on acid rain and fog levels in the Gorge which directly affect the Columbia River and salmon. There is a real need that PGE come into compliance with federal law and for Oregon DEQ to recognize its importance as a source of pollution," comments Brent Foster, Executive Director for Columbia Riverkeeper.

Copies of the Jaffe report are available upon request: nat.parker@sierraclub.org

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