



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

The recent approval of a coal-fired power plant outside Grande Cache, Alberta shows that, even when federal legislation seems to be moving in the right direction, provincial agencies are quick to aid industry in avoiding pesky legislation.

If you are concerned with the ability of provincial bodies to protect public interest, please consider writing the federal Environment Minister Peter Kent.

-Madeline Wilson, AWA Conservation Specialist

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Alberta Coal Plant
Expansion Approved

AWA

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Coal-Fired Power Plant Expansion Approved

The Issue

On August 10, 2011, Maxim Power Corp. was given final approval by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to construct a 500-megawatt (MW) coal plant in the area of Grande Cache, Alberta. This decision was made just in time to enable Maxim's non-compliant plant to be commissioned before July 1, 2015 when new federal carbon legislation comes into effect.

Background

AWA's comments include:

- Along with emitting up to three million tonnes of greenhouse-gases per year, the plant will discharge mercury and other acidifying emissions into the air, extract at least 6 million metres cubed of freshwater annually from the Little Smoky River, and inflict further industrial impacts upon the Caw Ridge wilderness area.
- Caw Ridge is noted as being one of six remaining unprotected biological hotspots in the Rocky Mountain region, and provides imperative habitat to many wildlife species. AWA has, and continues, to

actively seek protection of this significant wilderness area.

- When former federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice introduced the new legislation, and the standards that would be applied to coal-fired power plants, he assured the public that non-compliant plants would not be expedited: "We will guard against any rush to build non-compliant coal plants in the interim."
- Though AWA submitted a Statement of Concern regarding the proposed development, AWA was not given standing in the matter, and were thus unable to trigger a hearing. AWA is now calling on Environment Canada to rigorously review Maxim Power's application, and ensure commitments made to the public body are upheld.

To see AWA's letter to federal Environment Minister, Peter Kent:

<http://albertawilderness.ca/issues/wildlands/kakwa/archive/2011-08-17-coal-fired-power-plant-expansion-approved/view>

Take Action!

Send your comments to:

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., MP
Minister of Environment
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
Email: Minister@ec.ca

And please send a copy of your letter to awa.mw@shaw.ca

Thank you for your support!

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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