

Testimony before Portland City Council, 1/20/10
By Maye Thompson, RN, PhD

My name is Dr. Maye Thompson. I am a nurse and the Environmental Health Program Director for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. I am here today to commend Mayor Adams and the Portland City Council for the leadership they have shown in addressing climate change at the local and regional levels. Kudos especially to Mayor Adams for knowing that energy efficiency and economic development that emphasizes the business opportunities in clean and green energy is the key to reaching the goals in Portland's Climate Action Plan.

My primary interest in this issue is as a health professional. Although global warming is often framed as an environmental problem, we in the public health community know its impact on health as well. We are concerned about increases in heat-related diseases, insect-borne and water-borne diseases such as malaria and West Nile virus, extreme weather events, food and water shortages, and conflict over diminished resources. Many of these effects are already apparent.

Portland General Electric's Boardman coal plant is the single largest point-source of carbon dioxide pollution in Oregon; it is also the largest point-source for nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and mercury, which pose serious threats to human health. Pollution from coal contributes to four of the five leading causes of mortality in the US: heart disease, cancer, stroke, and emphysema. Children exposed to mercury from coal can experience developmental delays and permanently reduced intelligence. And we count these costs of coal, not in the price per ton, but in increased health care costs.

I am heartened that PGE has proposed closing the Boardman coal plant before 2040. While several dates have been bandied about in the last few days, as a health professional, I advocate that the Boardman coal-burning plant be closed as soon as is feasible. 2014 is none too soon from a health perspective. We must keep mercury and other dangerous pollutants out of the Columbia River, and out of our children's bodies. There is no time to waste.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Maye Thompson [maye@oregonpsr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: request to speak before City Council on Jan 20th

Hello, I'd like to request a moment to speak to the City Council at its meeting on January 20th.

Name Maye Thompson, RN, PhD
Address 812 SW Washington, #1050 97205
Phone (503) 274-2720
Topic Support Mayor Adams' position on closing PGE's coal-burning power plant in Boardman

Thanks for you consideration. Maye

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Request of Maye Thompson to address Council regarding the Boardman coal plant
(Communication)

JAN 20 2010

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LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

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	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		