

# The last thing Ohio needs is another expensive, polluting coal plant

The Beard Energy Company of Vancouver, Washington, wants to build a \$5 billion coal plant in Wellsville, on the Ohio River. They plan to use a technology developed by Nazi Germany to convert coal to liquids for use in World War II. Since the war, the same technology has been used only in apartheid South Africa when it had trouble getting fuel due to an international embargo.



## People in Eastern Ohio already suffer from coal plant pollution

Washington, Beard Energy's home state, has a total of one coal plant. Ohio already has 27 coal plants within its boundaries, and more on the other side of the Ohio River. The largest Ohio coal-fired power plant, the 2,316 megawatt W.H. Sammis plant in Stratton, and one of the largest hazardous waste incinerators in the world, the Waste Technologies Industries facility in East Liverpool, are both within 10 miles of the proposed coal plant.

The Beard coal plant would require 9.3 million tons of coal a year, or 186 million tons over 20 years. The soot that Beard Energy plans to emit from this coal plant can cause shortness of breath, aggravate asthma and bronchitis,

increase susceptibility to respiratory infections and heart attacks or even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. The plant would straddle the border of Columbiana and Jefferson Counties, an area that already violates public health standards for soot.

Why should neighbors in Columbiana and Jefferson Counties be subjected to another major source of air pollution?

Prices for the kind of coal Beard says it will use have risen sharply due to increased exports. If Beard Energy adds another 9.3 million tons a year to demand, that will push coal prices higher, and that means higher electricity costs.

 **Ohio Citizen Action**  
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# This coal plant would be a potential new market for mountaintop removal coal

Baard Energy wants to burn 9.3 million tons of coal a year in its proposed coal plant in Wellsville, Ohio. Where would it come from? Beard Energy won't pin itself down to an answer, except that it will be "bituminous" coal. This kind of coal can be found from Pennsylvania to northern Alabama, with the heaviest concentrations in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky, and in Illinois, Colorado and Utah. That's a very large area, centered on the region where mountaintop removal is underway.

Mountaintop removal is a radical form of coal mining where mountains are literally blown up — devastating communities

throughout Appalachia, polluting drinking water and destroying rivers. So far, 500 Appalachian mountains have been destroyed by mountaintop removal. Reclamation is not possible. It will take hundreds or thousands of years to re-grow a forest on the headless mined mountain.

What is certain is that the biggest supply of coal with easy Ohio River access to the proposed Beard coal plant is West Virginia, where the worst mountaintop removal coal mining is going on.

*Why would we want to give mountaintop coal mining a new market?*

## YOU CAN HELP

Baard Energy is counting on getting state subsidies to build this coal plant, so the person elected Ohio governor this November will have a lot of say over whether the plant is built. Please write to the two candidates for governor and let them know what you think about the Beard coal plant proposal, and ask them to write you back and tell you where they stand on it:

**Gov. Ted Strickland**  
77 South High Street,  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**John Kasich**  
14 East Gay Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*Please tape your letters to your door by 8pm tonight. Any postage you can contribute is appreciated. Don't forget to include your return address. Have kids? Get them involved with their own letters or drawings. Thank you!*