

VICTORY!

AMP CANCELS

PROPOSED COAL PLANT

Ohio Citizen Action began a campaign in September, 2007 to stop American Municipal Power's (AMP) plans to build a new 1,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Meigs County, Ohio.

During this time, local council members in 81 AMP municipalities signed a contract to build the plant, though they had no idea what the cost to their community was going to be. Time after time, AMP and their contractors said the electricity generated by the new plant would be cheaper than the market. AMP also made the contract a "take or pay contract" which means by definition: *"An agreement between a buyer and seller in which the buyer will still pay some amount even if the product or service is not provided."* Unfortunately, the contract to build the plant was very one-sided. Additionally, AMP insisted upon the contracts being 50 years in length.

On November 25, 2009, AMP announced they canceled plans to build the plant. They attributed the cancellation to a cost estimate that had risen to over \$4 billion. This was a 37% cost increase in 2009 alone.

Since AMP is a public power system, the ultimate decision-makers are the municipalities who signed up to build the plant. When the participants took a vote after the last cost increase was announced they overwhelmingly made the wise decision to cancel the plant.

The campaign was an uphill battle. It was called 'one of the toughest coal plant proposals to stop' by organizers throughout the country working together to move beyond coal. In fact, in 2009 alone there were 26 coal plant proposals that were defeated or abandoned in the US.

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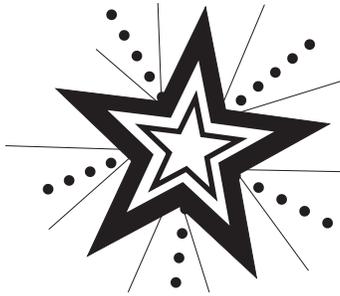
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Cost overruns and delays

The initial estimate for the AMP plant started at \$1.2 billion in 2005. The last estimate ended at \$4 billion or more. Throughout the campaign Ohio Citizen Action worked with technical experts who correctly predicted that the estimates for both constructing the plant and the cost of power to ratepayers were far too low. The project was delayed numerous times, also causing costs to skyrocket. In the end, the numerous delays and cost overruns gave the municipalities the opportunity to cancel the coal plant and save billions of dollars.

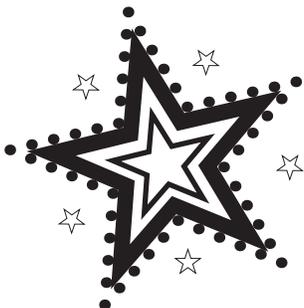


Canvassing throughout Ohio

Ohio Citizen Action canvassed ratepayers in cities that signed up to build the plant. Most of the ratepayers were unaware they were part of building the proposed plant and were quite angry about the decision their councilmembers had made on their behalf.

- Ohio Citizen Action members wrote 12,905 personal letters to AMP board members urging AMP to cancel the proposed plant in Meigs County
- 5,692 ratepayers in AMP communities signed petitions opposing the plant
- 592 ratepayers in AMP communities wrote personal letters to their local council members telling them why they don't want to build this coal plant

Ohio Citizen Action's website also helped to educate many ratepayers, activists, journalists, and others about the problems with the proposed coal plant. This was key because the mainstream media did not cover the issue. The "worst place in Ohio to build another coal plant" series on the Ohio Citizen Action website also highlighted health problems neighbors already endure due to the four existing coal-fired plants in the same 11 mile radius that AMP planned to build.



Legal challenges and original research

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Sierra Club challenged AMP's air and water permits throughout the entire process. Ohio Citizen Action, along with NRDC, Sierra Club, and Meigs Citizen Action Now uncovered all kinds of problems with the proposed plant through extensive public records requests, meetings with local officials, legal challenges, and original research challenging AMP's cost estimates.

So many individuals and organizations worked to stop the coal plant: Elisa Young and Meigs Citizen Action Now, numerous local councilmembers who opposed the plant, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Student Environmental Coalition and Ohio Citizen Action members all played crucial roles in stopping the proposed coal plant. This was truly a victory for all Ohioans. Congratulations!