



## **Green DelawareAlert 666: No new coal plant for the Delaware Electric Coop**

Tell the Delaware Electric Cooperative: No New Coal Plant!

Tell **Bill Andrew, President and CEO**

302-349-3174

[bandrew@decoop.com](mailto:bandrew@decoop.com)

Ask Gov. Markell to walk his talk and oppose the DEC coal burner

[jack.markell@state.de.us](mailto:jack.markell@state.de.us), 800.292.9570

By now, most people likely know that coal burning is a key cause of global warming as well as human death and disease -- coal needs to be phased out as soon as possible.

Delaware Electric Coop has announced it plans to join with other coops and build the "Cypress Creek" (formerly "Hampton Roads") coal burner in Surry County Virginia. **Delaware Electric Cooperative** and its energy supplier, **Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC)** just don't get it!

Rural electric coops, like DEC, have made many contributions to American life, by bringing power to customers private utilities like Delmarva Power didn't want to serve. Unfortunately, their environmental records are often even worse than private utilities.

**A new coal plant is an unwise investment and-potential economic nightmare for DEC members.**

In addition to these health and environmental problems, the proposed "Cypress Creek" burner is a potential economic nightmare to coop members. **The estimated cost is 4-8 billion dollars.** DEC and the other ODEC member coops are reportedly being asked to sign 45 year contracts (to 2054) to pay for it. 45 year long contracts in a time of energy market fluctuation and change is not wise. Independent reports have shown that the need for it has not been justified. Coop members have been given very little objective background information. (see [www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org](http://www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org))

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Conservation is the most prudent choice. Even now, without carbon costs, the cost of energy efficiency ("negawatts") is around one-third the cost of new coal electricity. The billions that would be spent on a new coal burner should instead be spent on conservation and efficiency.

## **What will Governor Markell do at the Coop Annual Meeting?**

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## **Green DelawareAlert 666: No new coal plant for the Delaware Electric Coop**

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302-349-3174

[bandrew@decoop.com](mailto:bandrew@decoop.com)

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Years ago, I suggested in the Delaware State News that DEC should invest in conservation and efficiency programs in its own service area, benefiting members and local businesses, rather than send this money out of state to buy nuclear power from Virginia. Investment on the "demand side" yields far more employment and other economic benefits than investment in burning fuel. DEC management didn't appreciate the suggestions and responded that I didn't appreciate the fine lifestyle of Sussex County. Not much, apparently, has changed except that the plans now are for coal rather than nuclear power.

**Tell the Delaware Electric Cooperative: No New Coal Plant!**

**Tell Bill Andrew, President and CEO**

**302-349-3174**

**bandrew@decoop.com**

**Ask Gov. Markell to walk his talk and oppose the DEC coal burner**

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**Delaware Electric Cooperastive and ODEC have no more right to pollute Virginia than NRG or Conectiv have to pollute Delaware.**

Organizations opposed to the Cypress Creek coal burner include Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Southern Environmental Law Center and the Wise Energy for Virginia coalition.

Delawareans, regardless of whether they are coop members, should help by opposing Cypress Creek or any other ODEC coal project. This is your opportunity to speak out!

Thanks.

Alan Muller

Executive Director, Green Delaware

**Green Delaware is a community based organization working on environment and public health issues. We try to provide information you can use. Please use it. Do you want appreciate receiving information from Green Delaware? Please consider making a contribution.**

**Reach us at 302.834.3466, 302.299.6783, info@greendel.org, www.greendel.org , Box 69, Port Penn, DE, USA, 19731-0069**



## **Green DelawareAlert 666: No new coal plant for the Delaware Electric Coop**

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By now, most people likely know that coal burning is a key cause of global warming as well as human death and disease -- coal needs to be phased out as soon as possible.

Delaware Electric Coop has announced it plans to join with other coops and build the "Cypress Creek" (formerly "Hampton Roads") coal burner in Surry County Virginia. **Delaware Electric Cooperative** and its energy supplier, **Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC)** just don't get it!

Rural electric coops, like DEC, have made many contributions to American life, by bringing power to customers private utilities like Delmarva Power didn't want to serve. Unfortunately, their environmental records are often even worse than private utilities.

**A new coal plant is an unwise investment and-potential economic nightmare for DEC members.**

In addition to these health and environmental problems, the proposed "Cypress Creek" burner is a potential economic nightmare to coop members. **The estimated cost is 4-8 billion dollars.** DEC and the other ODEC member coops are reportedly being asked to sign 45 year contracts (to 2054) to pay for it. 45 year long contracts in a time of energy market fluctuation and change is not wise. Independent reports have shown that the need for it has not been justified. Coop members have been given very little objective background information. (see [www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org](http://www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org))

No one knows, at this time, exactly how carbon emissions from coal burners will be regulated. But it is certain that they WILL be regulated, long before 2054, and this will greatly increase the relative cost of coal electricity. Should DEC members be burdened with this undetermined liability, when so many better options exist?

Conservation is the most prudent choice. Even now, without carbon costs, the cost of energy efficiency ("negawatts") is around one-third the cost of new coal electricity. The billions that would be spent on a new coal burner should instead be spent on conservation and efficiency.

## **What will Governor Markell do at the Coop Annual Meeting?**

Governor Jack Markell recently signed Senate Bill 106, calling for an annual two percent reduction in electricity use in Delaware. Markell has said this is the centerpiece of his energy policy. Bill Andrew, President of DEC, told us he didn't "think SB 106 will make much difference to the Coop."

**If Markell is serious, he should speak out against the new DEC coal plant.** Markell has indicated in a press release that he'll be at the Coop Annual meeting at 5:00 PM. Ask him!

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