



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Monday, December 17, 2018

**Contact:** Vanessa Ramos, Sierra Club, [vanessa.ramos@sierraclub.org](mailto:vanessa.ramos@sierraclub.org), 512-586-1853  
Briauna Barrera, Public Citizen, [briaunabarrera1@gmail.com](mailto:briaunabarrera1@gmail.com), 254-722-5812

## **San Antonio Environmental Justice Community Celebrates Retirement of Oldest, Dirtiest Coal Plant**

*CPS Energy's Deely Coal Plant set to retire December 31, 2018*



**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - On Saturday, the Climate Action SA coalition, made up of dozens of local environmental and social justice organizations, hosted a celebration commemorating the long-awaited retirement of JT 'Dirty' Deely. Deely is San Antonio's oldest and dirtiest power plant and has long been targeted for closure by public health and environmental advocates. CPS Energy is set to retire the Deely coal plant by December 31, 2018.

In 2011, CPS Energy announced that the two Deely coal units would be retired in 2018 to avoid spending \$3 billion on pollution controls necessary for a modern coal plant. Deely sits on the

banks of Calaveras Lake in South San Antonio next to two additional coal units, JK Spruce 1 & 2, also operated by CPS Energy.

In 2015, CPS Energy's coal-fired power plants were Bexar County's largest source of nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution which help drive San Antonio high ozone levels and asthma rates that are among the highest in Texas.

"Retiring Deely by the end of 2018 is a boost to cleaning up carbon emissions and ozone precursors like NOx in San Antonio and that deserves a clean-air celebration," said Peter Bella, lead for March for Science - San Antonio. "Let's shut down the rest of CPS Energy's coal-powered generation, Spruce 1 and 2, by 2025 and work throughout the community to be sure we meet the 1.5 °C target in the City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. Late last week, we learned that CPS Energy is installing a new generator in Spruce 2. Let's establish a shutdown date for both Spruce coal plants to make sure we can meet the City's Paris compliant climate goals."

Fossil fuel pollution from across the state, from cars, fracking, and heavy industry like cement kilns, also contribute significantly to San Antonio's smog problem and global climate destabilization. Coal-fired power plants such as Deely and Spruce are well known sources of additional dangerous pollution, including heavy metals like lead and mercury.

Saturday's event honored the community leaders who made this retirement possible while drawing attention to the long path of resistance ahead to reduce the health burdens on families across the state.

"Shutting down Deely is a huge win for families all around San Antonio," said Greg Harman, a San Antonio-based Sierra Club organizer. "It offers the perfect opportunity to celebrate the community heroes who made it happen: Too-often unsung volunteers and environmental justice advocates who refuse to allow the City to put profit above the lives of people and the planet."



“The end of Dirty Deely was decades in the making. As we celebrate this milestone we also prepare for an even longer struggle for a truly coal free future,” said Enrique Valdivia, an environmental attorney who has long been active in energy and water struggles in San Antonio and the District 7 Director of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. “Today we take heart knowing progress is possible. Tomorrow we keep our promise to future San Antonians by renewing our efforts to retire CPS’s remaining coal fired generators. Let clean air be our legacy to our children and grandchildren.”

CPS Energy’s “Flexible Path” energy generation plan [announced earlier this year](#) suggests that the public utility plans to retire one of the Spruce units in 2030 but keep burning the other into the 2040s and possibly even longer.

###

### About Climate Action SA

*Climate Action SA coalition of committed individuals and organizations dedicated to building strong thriving communities in the face of the growing dangers of global climate change. The coalition insists on a rapid and just transition away from hazardous fossil fuels and toward a city*

*driven by clean energy and the sustainable economy it could bring by creating deeper relationships built upon the values of equality, justice, and peace.*

*About the Sierra Club*

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).*