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Wisconsin Continues Shift Beyond Coal

Madison, WI - This morning, Alliant Energy announced plans to retire or phase-out the use of coal at four of their units.

Alliant's fleet of aging coal plants, like those of many Wisconsin utilities, are violating the Clean Air Act standards and pumping too much pollution into our air. In September, 2010, Sierra Club filed lawsuits claiming violations at all of Alliant's coal plants and asked the court to order that all of the units at those plants either be cleaned up or retired. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a Notice of Violation regarding similar violations. Today's announcement from Alliant's illustrates how the company plans to address these outdated, dirty coal plants.

In response, Jennifer Feyerherm of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign stated the following:

"Wisconsin's energy future just got a little brighter and we can all breathe a bit easier today.

"Coal is a dirty and dangerous fossil fuel and it always will be. It is also growing increasingly expensive and has proven a risky investment of late. While other Wisconsin utilities have rushed to invest in new coal plants, Alliant increased its investment in renewable energy. This year, Alliant is the only utility in Wisconsin asking the Public Service Commission to reduce electric rates, while the other utilities are asking for yet another round of rate increases, largely to pay for those new coal plants.

"We applaud Alliant's move to reduce its reliance on coal and make room for new clean energy investments. It is a sound decision that will result in cleaner air, cleaner water, and fatter wallets for all Wisconsinites."

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