

LAURA MILLER  
MAYOR



CITY OF DALLAS

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release:  
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### **Don Henley To Join Dallas Mayor In Fight For Cleaner Power**

***Eagles Band Recording Artist To Speak Before  
Mount Vernon City Council To Advocate For  
More Modern, Cleaner Technology For TXU's Proposed  
Coal Plant Expansion***

**WHAT:** Mount Vernon City Council Meeting

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.**

**WHERE:** Mount Vernon City Hall  
109 North Kaufman St., Mount Vernon, TX 75457

**WHO:** **Dallas Mayor Laura Miller**  
**Don Henley**  
**Rick Lowerre, Attorney & Pres. Caddo Lake Institute**

**MORE:** Rock 'n roll legend Don Henley of the Eagles is a native of East Texas and a caretaker of Texas' only natural lake, Caddo Lake. Unfortunately, mercury levels in Caddo Lake are extremely high and, for more than 10 years, a warning has been in place from the Texas Department of Health advising people not to eat more than two servings of fish a month due to the high mercury levels in Caddo and three other Texas lakes. Since that time, additional lakes are under the same advisory.

Currently, TXU is trying to build and expand 11 of its power plants in Texas, two of which are in close proximity to Caddo Lake. An enormous amount of mercury will be emitted from these coal-fired plants putting Caddo and other Texas lakes in even more danger.

On Tuesday, December 12, Henley will speak before the Mount Vernon City Council to congratulate the East Texas city on its role in protecting his beloved lake by its recent decision to join the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition (TCACC).

The Coalition, formed by Dallas Mayor Laura Miller with the help of Houston Mayor Bill White, was formed to give local cities, counties and governmental entities a voice and a seat at the table during the state permitting process of the 17 currently proposed coal-fired plants.

Two days later, on Thursday, December 14, the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) will hold a hearing in Austin. It is at this hearing where TCACC will attempt to get legal standing to be a party in the permitting cases of the power plants. The city of Mount Vernon plays an important role because of its proximity to TXU's Monticello plant, which has been declared one of the worst mercury emitting plants in the nation in a 2006 study entitled "Dirty Kilowatts: America's Most Polluting Power Plants", *Environmental Integrity Project*.

The Coalition believes there is a balance between the need for power and the health of our environment that must be achieved in the permitting process. TCACC will push for more modern, cleaner technologies than coal-burning to meet the state's power needs. Coal gasification, for example, is the cleanest coal-burning technology available and could cut emissions significantly, yet in a December 2005 ruling the TCEQ said Texas utility companies do not have to consider this option.

The Coalition also questions the need for all 17 plants, which would double the total number of plants currently in Texas. The health, environmental and economic development impacts of such an expansion is also being challenged by the Coalition.

The result of these hearings will ultimately determine whether 17 coal-fired power plants, fast-tracked through the state permitting system, will be approved with yesterday's emission controls, or if the Coalition will be successful in negotiating cleaner plants, including retrofits on TXU's existing plants.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Mayors of Dallas, Houston and 24 other cities and counties representing 7 million citizens across the State of Texas, collectively known as the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition (TCACC), have come together to formally intervene in the permitting process and push for more modern, cleaner alternatives to the proposed coal burning.

Over the past few months, Dallas Mayor Laura Miller has visited numerous small towns and counties in Texas, many of which will be home to the proposed coal-burning plants, to get their participation in the permit process.

### **TEXAS—At A Glance**

In a national study released this summer:

- Texas ranked No. 1 in mercury emissions from power plants
- Five of the 10 worst plants for mercury are in Texas (TXU's Martin Lake is #1, Monticello #4, Big Brown #6)
- Texas contributes 10% of all the mercury emissions in the country

("Dirty Kilowatts: America's Most Polluting Power Plants", *Environmental Integrity Project*, July 2006)

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