

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented its proposal to revamp the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards. This proposal, in particular, puts the health of pregnant women, infants, children, and communities of color in jeopardy. Religious communities of diverse traditions are profoundly concerned by the Trump Administration's proposal to roll back protections from mercury and other air toxics.

The current mercury pollution standards reduce dangerous levels of mercury, heavy metals and other toxic air pollutions released from coal- and oil-burning power plants. The proposed changes to the current rule would exclude co-benefits or ancillary benefits from the rule's cost-benefit analysis. This is a reversal from the guidelines issued by the George W. Bush Administration in 2003. Limiting the benefits attributed to curbing mercury pollution in its cost-benefit analysis not only short changes the health of vulnerable populations but puts the health and wellbeing of all communities at risk.

As faith organizations we strive not only for environmental stewardship but to protect human health and wellbeing. Rolling back mercury pollution standards does not fulfill EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment and fails in our duty to protect God's creation.

Adrian Dominican Sisters
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Congregation of St. Joseph
Creation Justice Ministries
Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise
Dignity Health
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Earth Ministry
Eco-Justice Ministries
Franciscan Action Network
Green Chalice
Hazon
Interfaith Power & Light
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Mercy Investment Services, Inc.
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society