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Groups Sharply Criticize Today's Consumers Energy Coal Plant Filing *Failure to document claims calls public process into question*

LANSING, MI –Michigan clean energy advocates criticized a government filing today by Consumers Energy, saying the Michigan Public Service Commission failed to require the release of detailed documents that are the basis for the utility giant's case for building a costly new polluting coal plant near Bay City.

Consumers Energy's Electric Generation Alternatives Analysis, filed today with the Michigan Public Service Commission, makes unsubstantiated claims that the state's energy needs will grow and underestimates the ability of more cost-effective clean energy alternatives to meet energy needs in the future.

The Public Service Commission is providing just 30 days for public comment on the proposal, but has not said when all of the documents will be released by Consumers Energy. Meanwhile, the clock for public comment began ticking today.

"One could easily conclude that Consumers Energy is afraid their detailed documents will not bear up under public scrutiny," said Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Executive Director. "Why else would they fail to provide the most important, detailed information at the beginning of a very short public comment period?"

"The Public Service Commission should either halt the comment period until we get all of the documents or require their immediate release. Otherwise, they are calling into question the integrity of this important public process."

Today's filing by Consumers Energy is the start of a process that will decide whether the state should issue a permit for a new polluting coal plant under the Clean Air Act. The process follows a decision by Governor Granholm to require utilities to prove that the state's energy needs can't be met by wind, solar and other clean energy alternatives that will save ratepayers money and create more jobs.

Reacting to today's filing, David Gard, Michigan Environmental Council's energy expert, said, "It looks like they're trying to justify a plant we don't need."

Clean Water Action's Cyndi Roper said Michigan is at an energy crossroads and would shoot itself in the economic foot by building new dirty coal plants.

"We can either move in the direction of a new, clean energy economy and jobs or we can build polluting coal plants that undermine our clean energy job providers," said Roper, Clean Water Action's state director. "We can't undermine our clean energy economy with unneeded, costly dirty coal plants."

The Consumers Energy Electric Generation Alternatives Analysis can be found at:

[http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?
casenum=15996&submit.x=36&submit.y=12](http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=15996&submit.x=36&submit.y=12)

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