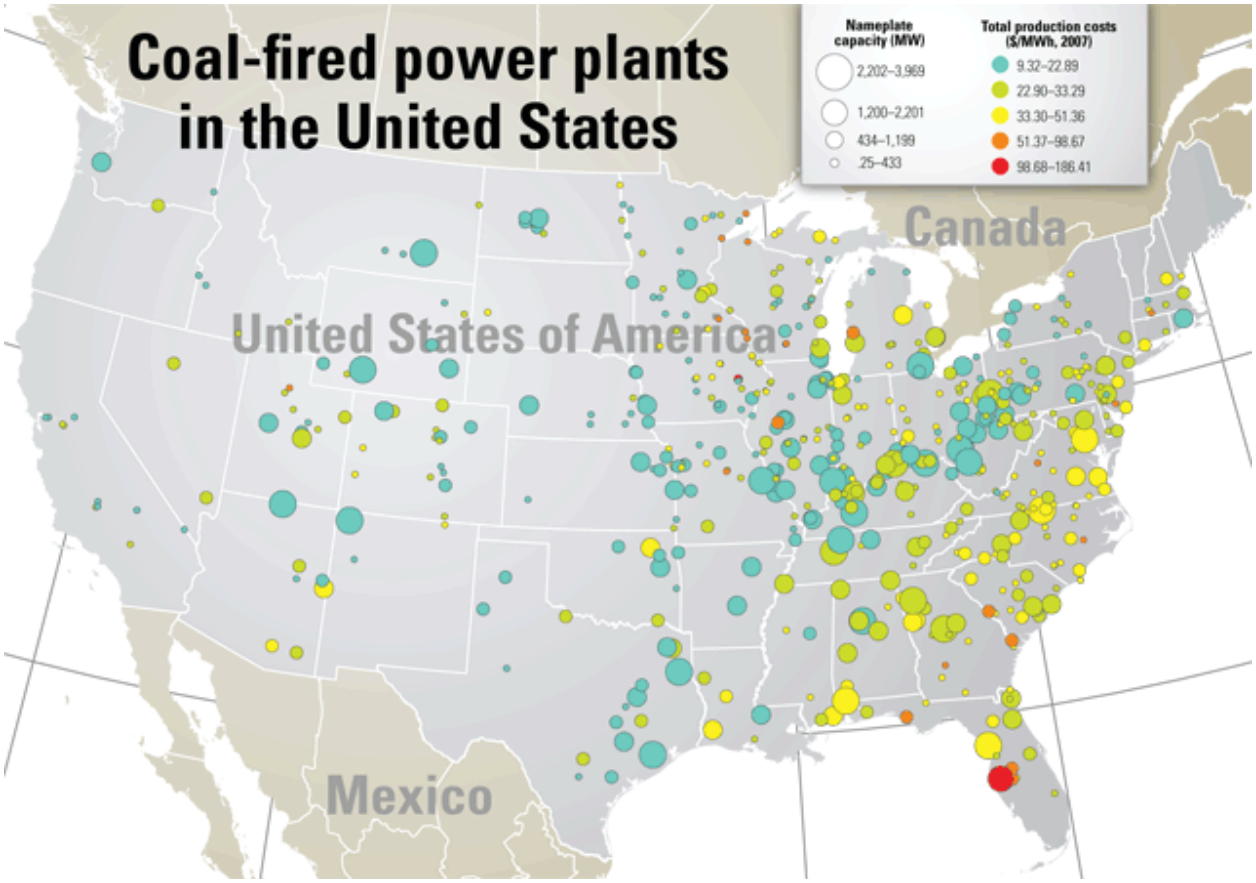
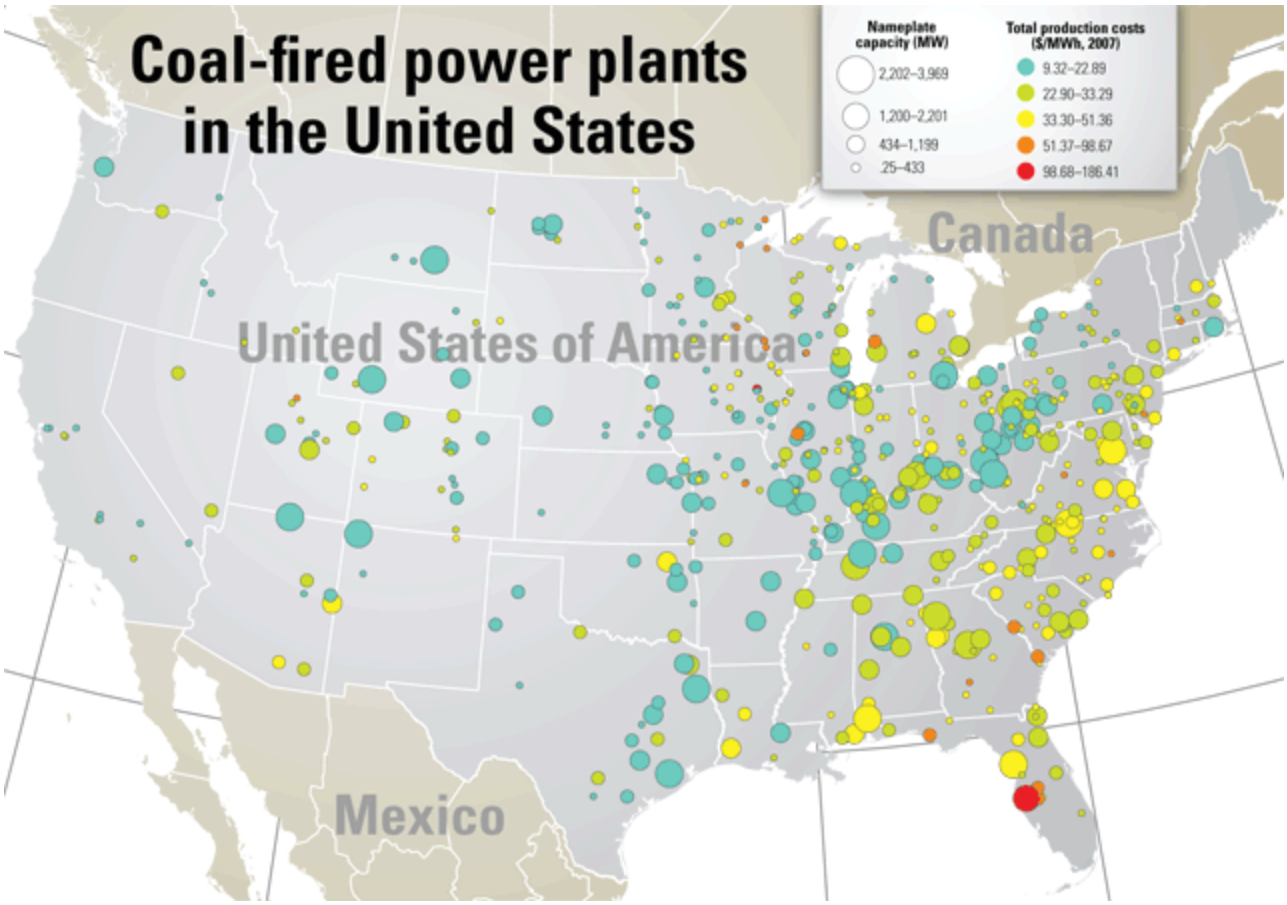


http://www.byteland.org/stoprapems/index.html

Coal-fueled Power Plants Are Hazardous To Your Health

Coal-fuel power plants represent a clear and present danger and are hazardous to your health. People need to organize and file claims against big power companies to make them pay for the health hazards and injuries they are doing to people who live close to or downwind from such plants which may cause hurt or harm. This is especially true in rural areas where the big power companies have exploitated poor and impoverished people and been able to gain permitting for coal-fuel power plants as well as in areas where there are high concentrations of coal-fueled power plants.



Map of existing coal-fired power plants in USA

The number of coal-fired power plants in the United States has increased over time, meaning that the pollution generated by coal-fired power plants has steadily increased over time. Because coal-fired power plants emit toxic chemicals into the atmosphere which may be hazardous to your health and which may cause or exacerbates respiratory illnesses, the operation of such fossil fuel power plants may adversely effect the long-term health and welfare of many people, especially those who live in closest proximity to such toxic air polluting power plants. Those who wish to learn more about this critical issue may wish to review exisiting coal-fired power plants in the USA to see where such air polluters are located and what their proximity to your home and family may be.

Morrow Generating Plant near Hattiesburg, Mississippil (Source: Google Maps)

Recently Morrow Generating Plant, southeast of Hatteisburg, Mississippi, was found to be responsible for death and disease attributable to fine particle pollution from its coal-fired power plant.

In 2010, Abt Associates issued a study commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization, quantifying the deaths and other health effects attributable to fine particle pollution from coal-fired power plants. Fine particle pollution consists of a complex mixture of soot, heavy metals, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. Among these particles, the most dangerous are those less than 2.5 microns in diameter, which are so tiny that they can evade the lung's natural defenses, enter the bloodstream, and be transported to vital organs. Impacts are especially severe among the elderly, children, and those with respiratory disease. The study found that over 13,000 deaths and tens of thousands of cases of chronic bronchitis, acute bronchitis, asthma, congestive heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, dysrhythmia, ischemic heart disease, chronic lung disease, and pneumonia each year are attributable to fine particle pollution from U.S. coal plant emissions. These deaths and illnesses are major examples of coal's external costs, i.e. uncompensated harms inflicted upon the public at large. Low-income and minority populations are disproportionately impacted as well, due to the tendency of companies to avoid locating power plants upwind of affluent communities. To monetize the health impact of fine particle pollution from each coal plant, Abt assigned a value of $7,300,000 to each 2010 mortality, based on a range of government and private studies. Valuations of illnesses ranged from $52 for an asthma episode to $440,000 for a case of chronic bronchitis. Source: SourceWatch.org

What this means is that other coal-fueled power plants and the companies that own them are equally responsible for the hurt, harm and even death they are causing to people who have been exposed to their pollution. Hence there is precident set for filing claims against the biggest polluters, one of which is the Southern Company, which has a very bad track record with respect to the operation of coal-fueled power plants and the amount of toxic chemical they have produced and released into the atmosphere and the environment. Hence citizens groups and enviornmentalist groups need to organize and join with legal firms to make civil claims against Southern Company and other companies which have been responsible for polluting the environment via coal-fired power plants.

There are many, many other coal-fired power plants which have operated for long periods of times pouring pollution into the atmosphere contributing to the poor health of people who live in the area or downwind from such power plants.

Deerhaven Power Plant north of Gainesville, Florida. Toxic vapors billow constantly 24/7 from this coal-fired power plant north of Gainesville, Florida, adding a constant mist of pollution to the air. Florida had 30 coal-fired generating units at 14 locations in 2005, with 11,382 megawatts (MW) of capacity -

representing 18.8% of the state's total electric generating capacity. (Source: SourceWatch.org) It is the proliferation of coal-fired power plants which is particularly hazardous to one's health over time, as even though the atmosphere dilutes such toxic fumes, and others are percipitated or washed out of the atmosphere by rain, as the number of coal-fired power plants increases with time, the concentrations of airborn chemicals in the air and the probabibility that one may breath toxic fumes increases, meaning that down the road as people age their chances of developing bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis or other respiratory problems increase. (Source: Google Maps)

All coal-fired power plants and their owners need to be held accountable for the hurt, harm and injury they have caused. Victims and their families need to be fairly compensated, such that the companies responsible for the pollution be made to pay medical bills, health insurance, and all other costs for damaged incurred by those who have polluted the air and water causing hurt and harm to people. This is a just cause and it demands that people everywhere who may have been hurt and harmed by owners and operators of coal-fired power plants stand up together and file claims against the polluters and rapers of Mother Earth!

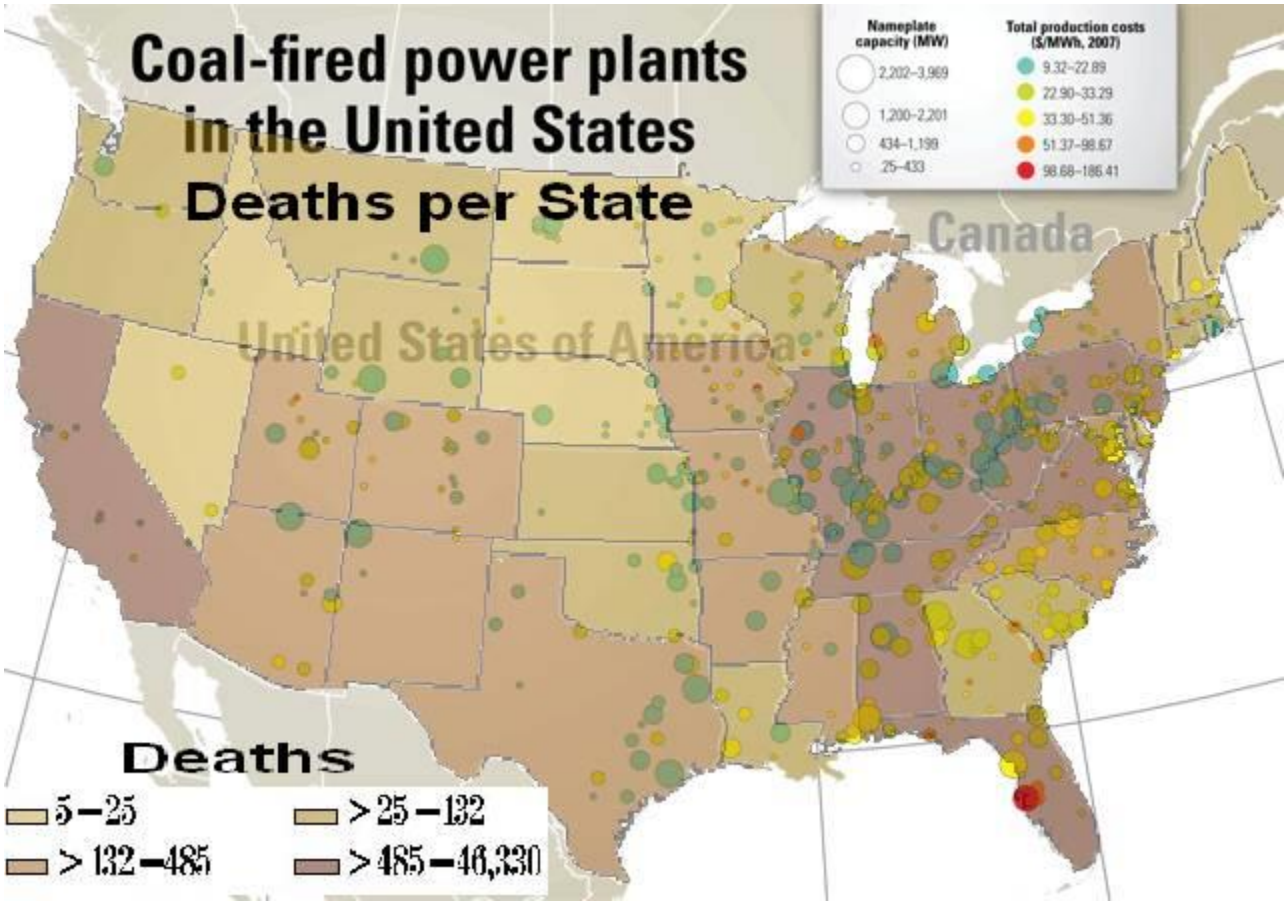


Figure PF. How many respiratory illnesses or deaths may be attributed to coal-fired plants in the United States? The map above gives you an indication. This map was produced by superimposing a map of coal-fired plants over a map of deaths of decendents of coal workers who died between 1968-2007 from Pneumoconiosis. (Number of Deaths Multiple Cause-of-

Death data for the total number of decedents with any mention of any of the following respiratory conditions coded on the entity axis: Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis (ICDA-8 code 515.1, ICD-9 code 500, or ICD-10 code J60) All Races (combined) and Both Sexes (combined), U.S. Residents, Ages 15 and Older, 1968 - 2007 . NOTE: No adjustments have been made to account for any potential variation in the classification of respiratory conditions across ICD revisions. Source: National Occupational Respiratory Mortality System, CDC, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Division of Respiratory Disease Studies)

The above map, Figure PF, shows an ominous relationship to the location of coal-fired plants and increased number of deaths due to a particular respiratory illness, Pneumoconiosis. This would be expected. One may then infer with a high degree of probability that the general public living in the vacinity or downwind from coal-fired power plants would suffer an increased incidence of all forms of respiratory illness the most sensitive of individuals being at greatest risk or most likely to die of their illness, especially as they advance in age.

Given this enlightenment, the public should call for new laws to stop the construction and usage of coal-fired power plants in all states, and to begin a process of moving away from coal-fired power plants to alternative forms of clean energy like solar, wind, geothermal, or hydroelectric. Also efforts to invest in energy conservation industries should be made so as to greatly reduce our need for energy by reducing the waste of energy, as through homes that leak energy and may benefit from improved insulation.