

The Children's Health Study published in the New England Journal of Medicine strongly supports a claim that the effects of air pollution on children are, in fact, measurably cumulative, meaningful and significant, and long lasting. ALL scientific trends point toward the very serious current and past problems with looking at pollutants, and other environmental risks, one at a time, while overlooking or ignoring the cumulative and synergistic effects of those pollutants and risks. Examining the risks of the proposed Russell City Energy Plant by examining only each pollutant in isolation while ignoring other pollutants and risks to which individuals in the affected communities are exposed is a very serious problem. Would we examine the risk of three martinis, and then separately examine the risk of driving 30 miles, and then because each alone might be an "acceptable risk" we conclude that having three martinis AND driving 30 miles is also an acceptable risk? We know that policy makers and big business interests can be very slow to accept and respond to very real, if new, scientific findings. I urge you to consider the CURRENT scientific findings and scientific trends that clearly point to cumulative and synergistic environmental risk and to DENY THE PERMIT for Russell City Energy.

Thoughtfully and Sincerely,
Andrew Pierson, Ph.D.