



Following are statements from Kentuckians regarding the significance of these standards on our health:

Dr. Vicki Holmberg, a Lexington physician, said, "As a physician I am glad to see the federal agencies stepping up to protect our health from such a harmful neurotoxin as mercury. This is about preventing chronic diseases and disabilities; something that all Kentuckians should support."

Hazel Jodock, mother of two in Lexington, KY commented, "As a nursing mother I am constantly aware of the nutrition I am providing my child. I worry about the amount of fish I consume because I know that mercury in that fish could affect my son's development."

Deborah Payne, MPH, Energy and Health Coordinator with Kentucky Environmental Foundation stated, "Public health community should applaud federal action to prevent mercury contamination. Smoke stacks from coal based energy production are the primary source of mercury in our state and region, and clean energy sources can help avoid mercury emissions. Establishing and maintaining national standards that reduce these toxins will improve the health of all Kentuckians."

Mercury contamination comes from coal plant emissions as well as from exposure to coal ash. Debra Walker lives next to the LG&E Mill Creek coal power plant and massive coal ash pile near Louisville, and said recently, "We're scared to death of living here next to a coal plant, but we can't sell our house. My whole family has been sick, and the only chance we have is for the EPA to clean up all this mess."

Richmond resident Cecile Schubert, a certified special education teacher and former adjunct faculty member with ECU's Special Education Department said, "The rates of children with autism spectrum disorders and other learning and developmental disabilities have skyrocketed in recent

years. Researchers know for a fact that mercury exposure is linked to these disorders, which can cause tremendous strife for families and cost school systems and our society millions of dollars each year in treatment. We owe it to our children to do whatever we can to prevent mercury contamination from coal power plants."