

# We Can't Hold Our Breath Waiting For A Carbon-Free Pennsylvania

## Closing Pennsylvania's Nuclear Plants Would Hurt the 276,000 Pennsylvania Kids Currently Struggling with Asthma<sup>1</sup>

### FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS THAT SPEW AIR POLLUTION DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT CHILDREN IN PHILADELPHIA AND OTHERS ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

#### The Fossil Fuel Power Plant Connection

Losing nuclear plants like Beaver Valley and Three Mile Island (TMI) would increase air pollution across Pennsylvania, with severe consequences for southeast Pennsylvania. This could trigger ozone alert days, asthma attacks, lung disease and lost days of work from poor air quality. Air pollution caused by coal plants, for example, includes:

<b>MERCURY (HG)</b> <i>Can damage the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and is a serious threat to child development.</i>	<b>SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO<sub>2</sub>)</b> <i>Linked with asthma, bronchitis, smog and acid rain.</i>
<b>NITROGEN OXIDE (NO<sub>x</sub>)</b> <i>Irritates lung tissue, exacerbates asthma and makes people more susceptible to chronic respiratory diseases.</i>	<b>PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)</b> <i>Linked with chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, cardiovascular effects like heart attacks and premature death.</i>

#### Southeast Pennsylvania's Health is at Risk

Many Greater Philadelphia residents already are at risk from air pollution caused by fossil fuels. More will be endangered if these sources must increase their activity following closures of Beaver Valley and TMI.<sup>2</sup>



**1,586** Children's Asthma Attacks



**1,156** Lost School Days for Children



**3,322** Minor Restricted Air Days  
(adults ages 18-64)

## Carbon-Free Nuclear Protects Our Lungs



**Nuclear energy has saved 1.8 million lives** that would have been lost if energy was replaced by dirty alternatives.<sup>3</sup>



The amount of carbon-free energy produced annually by Pennsylvania's nuclear energy resources is **equivalent to keeping more than 8 million cars off the road.**



**Nuclear energy keeps thousands of tons of pollutants like NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and Mercury out of the air** and lungs of Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth.<sup>4</sup>

If Pennsylvania's leaders do not act immediately to preserve these plants, Pennsylvania's communities, economy and environment will face imminent and irreversible harm. Thousands of jobs will disappear. Consumers will pay higher bills and breathe dirtier air. The Commonwealth's stable power supplies will be threatened. **LAWMAKERS AND THE GOVERNOR MUST ACT.**



Sources:  
1 <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/Asthma/Pages/Surveillance-Reports.aspx> | 2 Ibid; | 3 <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/the-curious-wavefunction/nuclear-power-may-have-saved-1-8-million-lives-otherwise-lost-to-fossil-fuels-may-save-up-to-7-million-more/>; | 4 <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/903/coal-and-gas-are-far-more-harmful-than-nuclear-power/>