

OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSIONERS REJECT OG&E ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

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OKLAHOMA CITY -- Today, in a two to one decision, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission voted to deny Oklahoma Gas & Electric's proposed environmental compliance plan. The decision comes in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirement that OG&E develop a plan to clean up its outdated Sooner coal-fired power plant. The Sooner plant is currently pumping pollution levels that will soon be out of compliance with federal pollution safeguards. To bring pollution down to a safe level, OG&E has many options. However, the company's proposal sought to collect half a billion dollars from ratepayers to recover the costs of upgrades to its outdated plant instead of looking at other lower-cost options, like investment in wind power or other Oklahoma energy.

In response to the decision, Laurie Williams, attorney for Sierra Club issued the following statement:

"The commissioners' decision today is a huge victory -- not only for OG&E customers, but for all Oklahomans.

"Spending \$500 million to keep an old, inefficient coal plant running would have been simply wasteful and shortsighted. And pre-approval of the company's so-called environmental compliance plan would have exposed OG&E's customers to a significant risk -- they would be paying for these retrofits for decades after the plant retires.

"Today's decision recognizes that there are better options for Oklahoma -- a good plan should take advantage of Oklahoma's low cost and local renewable resources. But OG&E refused to consider these resources in its proposed plan. The Sooner State is home to abundant, affordable wind energy, and other sources of energy that keep investments closer to home. Investing in Oklahoma-first energy can save customers hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We're glad the commissioners did what's best for Oklahoma, and we hope that OG&E will take its proposal back to the drawing board. It's time to create a plan for the future that's good for Oklahomans -- both our pocketbooks and our health."

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