



Indianapolis Power & Light: Failing Indianapolis with expensive, dirty coal

Indianapolis still gets much of its electricity from IPL's Petersburg Super Polluter Coal Plant, located 125 miles from Indy in Southwest Indiana. Petersburg is one of 22 so-called Super Polluter coal plants that release the most toxic pollution and greenhouse gases in the U.S.¹

And IPL's Petersburg coal plant is the worst water polluter in the state. **The Indianapolis Star reported in June 2020 that IPL violated its water permit 120 times in the last three years, polluting the White River with boron, selenium, cadmium and mercury.**²

Due to our advocacy, IPL announced plans to retire less than half of Petersburg during its 20-year planning process in 2019. Despite calls from the mayor of Indianapolis and the City-County Council to replace all of its coal with affordable renewable energy, **IPL plans to continue to burn coal at Petersburg until 2042.** That's out of step with the most recent United Nations climate report, stating that the world needs to cut carbon pollution by 45% by 2030.

In addition, IPL is charging customers millions of dollars to run the Petersburg plant when cheaper energy is available. IPL customers would save money if the company bought cheaper energy from the market. Instead, IPL "self-schedules" Petersburg and designates the plant as "must-run," even when operating costs exceed revenues.

A Sierra Club expert found that IPL customers could have saved \$1.5 million over the three months from November 2019 to January 2020 alone if the utility had idled Petersburg when

market prices for energy were less expensive than burning coal at the plant.

IPL is needlessly burning expensive, dirty coal when it would be less expensive for you, the customer, if they idled the coal plant and bought cleaner energy from the grid. With a poverty rate in Indianapolis that grew from 11.8 percent in 2000 to 21.3 percent in 2015, IPL customers could use some relief from IPL's high electric bills.

Meanwhile, in Northwest Indiana, NIPSCO decided to retire all of its coal-burning plants within 10 years and replace them with clean, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and storage, saving customers \$4 billion. In Southwest Indiana, Vectren announced a plan that will move the utility from 78 percent coal capacity in 2020 to 64 percent renewable energy by 2025.

IPL hasn't invested in any new solar or wind power in more than five years. According to their 20-year energy plan, their energy mix in 2039 will still be 68 percent fossil fuels.

As Indiana's capital city, shouldn't Indianapolis be setting the pace? IPL's parent company, AES Corp., in 2018 announced plans to cut costs and reduce its carbon intensity. While laying off many Indianapolis-based executives and staff, it purchased sPower, a top-10 U.S. solar developer and operator, and created a joint venture with Siemens to build the largest grid battery in the world in California.

It's time for AES and IPL to listen to their customers and Indianapolis city leaders and bring innovation, renewable energy and a commitment to carbon reductions to Indianapolis. IPL

¹ <http://superpolluters.com/>

² <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/environment/2020/06/08/ipl-petersburg-plant-faces-fine-more-than-100-permit-violations-idem-water-pollution/5261937002/>

should phase out the Petersburg Super Polluter, replace it with 100 percent renewable energy and save customers money.

IPL also needs to support the town of Petersburg, a community that has historically depended on the coal plant, through the transition away from coal, and take the needed steps to clean up the toxic mess they've made there and on the southside of Indianapolis, where waste from the Harding Street coal plant remains.

As long as IPL continues to burn coal at its Petersburg Super Polluter, Indianapolis will never be a world-class city, ready for 100 percent clean energy. IPL wastes customer money on Petersburg, which a Sierra Club expert found could be affordably replaced with renewable energy in five years. Join our campaign and call on IPL to go coal-free and replace the Petersburg coal-burning plant with clean, renewable energy, energy efficiency and storage.

IPL'S PETERSBURG SUPER POLLUTER FACTS:

IPL's Petersburg Super Polluter is one of the worst polluters in the country.

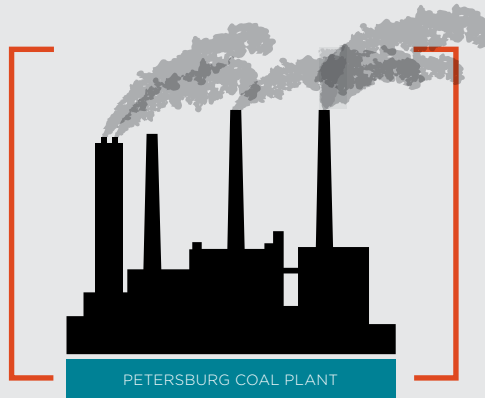
Built between 1967 and 1986.

4 units totaling 2,147 MW

All still operating.


3RD worst water polluter in the U.S. for **arsenic in 2015**
5TH worst water polluter in the U.S. for **lead in 2015**

source: Environmental Integrity Project



More **toxic air pollution** than any other power plant in Indiana
4.5 million pounds in 2014

source: 2014 U.S. EPA Toxic Release Inventory

3RD worst **carbon-polluting** plant in Indiana with
11 million tons of greenhouse gases in 2014

In 2017, the plant was the **3RD** worst polluting power plant in Indiana, spewing

10.8 million short tons of **carbon pollution**

nearly **8,000 tons** of **sulfur dioxide**

8,400 tons of **ozone-causing nitrogen oxides**

PER YEAR, THE PETERSBURG PLANT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:



251 premature deaths

150 heart attacks

1647 asthma attacks



source: 2016 Clean Air Task Force 'Toll from Coal' analysis



In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency documented hundreds of hours in which IPL failed to operate Petersburg's pollution control equipment and spewed excess sulfur dioxide into the air. Worse still, many of these violations occurred during a time when the U.S. EPA had declared the air in the nearby communities unhealthy to breathe.



Fed up with the lack of action from U.S. EPA or Indiana regulators, the State of Maryland has sued the EPA to require emissions reductions from Petersburg (and other Midwest power plants) to reduce smog problems in downwind states.

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