



**We Energies**  
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**Kevin Fletcher**  
President - We Energies

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February 5, 2018

Mr. Steve Slavens  
Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 81792  
Racine, WI 53508

**RE: Your letter dated Jan. 24, 2018 to We Energies**

Dear Mr. Slavens:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding air quality in the neighborhoods surrounding our Oak Creek power plant. I agree we have a responsibility to act as a good neighbor in the communities in which we operate. I believe we have met this responsibility for the communities surrounding our Oak Creek facility. I was encouraged by your appreciation for the many steps we have taken to be responsive to our neighbors' concerns.

In January 2016, we voluntarily installed an air quality monitoring station approximately one mile south of the Oak Creek site. We also proactively upgraded our operating systems and practices to minimize coal dust. We installed video monitoring, improved wind breaks, updated our procedures for moving coal during high winds and increased our use of foam and coal crusting agents to minimize fugitive dust at the site.

The location for the current air monitor was selected in part because the dust complaints we had received were almost exclusively from residents located to the south of the property. This location also was based upon experience with wind direction, topography and potential dust impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods. Our air monitor meets all U.S. EPA requirements. The monitor collects wind degree direction on an hourly basis and is averaged to develop the daily average wind direction (degrees).

We asked our contractor to review the 2016 and 2017 wind data. The results included in the attached chart show that the predominant wind direction is from the southwest. This data indicates that placing an air monitor to the north of the site would not capture the predominant winds. This assessment is proven by an air monitor we previously maintained near the northeast corner of Haas Park, which is north of the coal pile. This earlier monitor tracked air quality during the construction and subsequent operation of the new power plant. The City of Oak Creek and its environmental consultants approved the removal of this monitor in December 2013 due to

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the low data results. It was physically removed in 2014. The monitor was in place years beyond the completion of the new facility.

You also requested that we report data to the State of Wisconsin for its issuance of Air Quality Index Alerts. First, our monitor shows PM<sub>2.5</sub> limits have not been exceeded. Second, the data is currently provided publicly on our website. If the State of Wisconsin wants to report that data, it has access to the public data and may do so.

Finally, regarding your request for data posting in real time, we will continue to have the data posted as quickly as possible; however, all information must be reviewed prior to posting to ensure accuracy.

We appreciate that the coalition is encouraged by our decision to retire the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant and add more renewable energy to our generation fleet. We have a goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and we are well on our way. While coal and the Oak Creek facility will continue to be part of our generation mix, we are retiring 1,800 megawatts (MW) of coal-fueled generation elsewhere by 2020, adding more than 200 MW of state-of-the-art natural gas generation and proposing to invest in 350+ MW utility-scale solar projects.

The reshaping of our generation fleet will preserve fuel diversity while reducing both power costs to customers and carbon emissions. We are committed to balancing reliability and affordability with environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,



Kevin Fletcher  
President

cc: Gale Klappa, WEC Energy Group  
Mike Peters, WPPI Energy  
Jeff Keebler, Madison Gas and Electric

Attachment

# We Energies Wind Rose

