



February 13, 2019

Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator  
The Environmental Protection Agency  
Attention: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mail Code 28221T  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
NW Washington, DC 20460

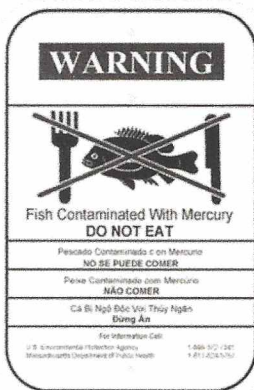
RE: Proposed Revised Supplemental Cost Finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (EPA Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794)

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

The Brewster Ponds Coalition (Brewster, Massachusetts) writes to voice our strong opposition to the proposal by the EPA to roll back its Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that would result in increased emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The Brewster Ponds Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to protect the health, beauty and enjoyment of Brewster's more than 80 ponds.

Brewster is unique among Cape Cod towns in that it has over 2100 acres of freshwater lakes and ponds – the most acreage of any community on Cape Cod. Thousands of people live in and travel to our town each year to swim, boat, and fish. A quarter of all property is located either on or has deeded access to a pond. Degradation of these precious fresh water resources would be catastrophic to the economy, health and well-being of this town.



It is well understood that atmospheric mercury from power plants and other industrial sources is deposited from the air onto the land and water through precipitation. Once in our waters, toxic organic methylmercury builds-up in fish and shellfish. This cycle continues up the food chain and is a recognized hazard to human health. This is not a hypothetical matter: **Fish taken from eight of ten ponds in the Cape Cod National Seashore from 2006-7 tested positive for levels of mercury at or above the EPA's "Action Level."**<sup>1</sup> In addition, in Brewster, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has reviewed fish toxics data generated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Sheep Pond and Bakers Pond and has issued consumption advisories due to fish contaminated with mercury.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/nature/upload/Mercury-deposition.pdf>

The EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) policy has proven to be one of the most effective air quality programs ever! Implementation of the MATS regulations have directly caused power plant mercury emissions from 2011 through 2017 to drop by approximately 81 percent. The current policy is a shining example of regulation that benefits the most people, and the power generating industry is adapting to the standards set by the MATS rule. Rolling back MATS policies now would reverse the great progress we have achieved in the last ten years in decreasing mercury and other toxic pollutants in our air, water, and food.

The Brewster Ponds Coalition urges the EPA to withdraw the MATS rollback proposal and instead renew the EPA's commitment to protect our nation's environment and the health of its citizens.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Vautin  
Board President

cc: Senator Edward Markey (MA)  
Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA)  
Representative William Keating (MA 9th Congressional District)