



CLEAN COAL

TECHNOLOGY  
FOUNDATION  
OF TEXAS

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### **Texas Air Quality Improves Dramatically in Past 20 Years**

*EPA Data Shows Sharply Lower Pollution Levels as Electric Power Generation Increases*

AUSTIN, Texas – An impartial review of Environmental Protection Agency data shows dramatic improvement is being made in Texas' air quality, and the air is cleaner today than it was 20 years ago.

Issued today by the Clean Coal Technology Foundation of Texas (CCTFT), *Making Progress 2006* highlights the following air quality improvements the EPA found in Texas and neighboring states:

- Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations have decreased 17 percent and are at their lowest levels in the past 20 years.
- Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in Texas have been slashed by almost 60 percent since 1982.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations are 57 percent lower than in 1982 – and are at their lowest level in the past 20 years.
- Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) levels have been reduced 10 percent and are lower than concentrations in 1980.
- Particulate matter 10 (PM 10) concentrations are about 30 percent lower in Texas and southern and western states than in 1988.

These improvements occurred during a period when rapid population and business growth in Texas sharply increased the demand for power, and generation from coal-fueled electric suppliers rose accordingly.

“There has been a lot of discussion lately about the state’s need for increased electric generation and the power plants that have been proposed to meet this growing demand. During this public debate, a flurry of assertions has been made about the air quality in Texas,” said CCTFT Administrative Director Donna McDonald.

“But the facts recorded by the Environmental Protection Agency, and contained in *Making Progress 2006*, belie the rhetoric. Texas air quality is steadily getting better and, if new pollution control technology is employed, it will continue to get better,” she said.

A recent environmental study commissioned by the Texas Commission on Environmental  
(more)

Quality concluded proposed new coal-fueled power plants will improve air quality in Texas by replacing older power plants with newer, more environmentally efficient ones. The new plants will have some of the lowest SO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen oxide and mercury emissions in the nation and they will be 80 percent cleaner than the average U.S. coal plant.

“TCEQ and the Texas Public Utility Commission deserve credit for helping set Texas on a path that has resulted in both a decrease in the level of pollutants in the air and a marked decline in the emissions that affect the concentrations of these pollutants,” McDonald said.

“The Clean Coal Technology Foundation of Texas pledges to work with the state of Texas to insist that new pollution-control technologies are implemented so we can continue the trend of improving air quality in Texas,” McDonald said.

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*The Clean Coal Technology Foundation of Texas is a privately funded 501 (c)(6) organization whose mission is to bring clean coal technologies to Texas and to secure funding for projects that will reduce air emissions and keep energy affordable.*