Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) wants to lock customers into 30 more years of paying for the AEP Rockport coal-fired power plant, one of the biggest toxic polluters in Indiana. I&M wants to raid our pocketbooks to pay for more dirty, expensive coal while they scheme to take away our freedom to generate our own power through rooftop solar.

ONE OF INDIANA'S BIGGEST POLLUTERS

The AEP Rockport coal-fired power plant in Spencer County is the sixth largest toxic chemical polluter in Indiana and the sixth largest carbon polluter in the nation. AEP Rockport spewed 5.8 million pounds of toxic pollution into Indiana’s air and water in 2013, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. AEP Rockport dumps nearly 13,000 pounds of toxic chemicals into the Ohio River each year, including emissions known to harm human health like arsenic, mercury pollutants, and lead.

AEP Rockport is one of Indiana’s most dangerous power plants. Experts at the Clean Air Task Force estimated in 2014 that AEP Rockport’s pollution causes 130 premature deaths, 200 heart attacks, and 2,200 asthma attacks every year. In addition, pollution from the plant disproportionately threatens low-income and our most vulnerable neighbors, including children. According to U.S. EPA, 45 percent of the people living within three miles of the plant are considered low-income, and 20 percent are either under age 5 or over 64.

As the nation’s sixth largest carbon polluter, the AEP Rockport plant emits nearly 16 million tons of climate-disrupting carbon pollution each year, accounting for approximately 15 percent of Indiana’s annual carbon emissions from power plants. Climate disruption poses a threat to Indiana crops, our health, our families and our communities, and we face increasing costs of cleaning up climate-related weather disasters. According to the 2014 National Climate Assessment, the Midwest was home to 11 of the 14 most expensive U.S. weather-related disasters in 2011 (those with damages of more than $1 billion).

A FINANCIAL DRAIN ON OUR COMMUNITIES

I&M is also hurting our communities by sending our hard-earned dollars out of state to continue burning coal at the AEP Rockport coal-fired plant. Coal burned at the AEP-

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**Facts: AEP Rockport Power Plant**

- **Location:** Spencer County, Indiana
- **Owners:** Unit 1: Indiana Michigan Power and AEP Corp. of Ohio; Unit 2: Wilmington Trust Co. of Delaware
- **Annual Carbon Dioxide Pollution** (2014): 15.8 million tons (6th in U.S.)
  - Equivalent to annual greenhouse gas emissions from 3 million passenger vehicles
- **Annual Toxic Pollution** (2013): 5.8 million pounds
  - 6th worst toxic polluter in Indiana and 2nd most toxic power plant in Indiana, after Duke Energy’s Gibson Power Plant
- **Health Impacts** (annual):
  - 30 premature deaths
  - 200 heart attacks
  - 2,200 asthma attacks
  - 40 asthma ER visits
Rockport power plant comes from Wyoming and Kentucky coal mines, not Indiana. Out-of-state coal purchases in 2013 cost I&M customers $400 million—money that leaves Indiana’s economy. I&M spent another $172 million in 2013 to operate the Spencer County plant along the Ohio River, draining more resources away from I&M communities like Fort Wayne, South Bend, Elkhart, and Muncie. Some of Rockport’s coal comes from mountaintop removal mining, a practice that has destroyed 500 Appalachian mountains, a million acres of forest and buried 2,000 streams.

Half of the AEP Rockport plant is owned by I&M and its parent company, Ohio-based AEP Corp.—the biggest corporate carbon polluter in the United States. The other half is owned by a group of East Coast moneymen operating as Wilmington Trust Co. I&M is leasing and operating Wilmington’s part of the plant under a lease agreement that expires in 2022. Ending the lease would give I&M an opportunity to unload a dirty, polluting, expensive coal plant and invest instead in affordable, homegrown Indiana clean energy.

**I&M ATTACKS ON ROOFTOP SOLAR**

I&M is trying to squash Indiana’s rooftop solar businesses and our freedom to generate our own power in order to protect its profits by locking our communities into paying for their dirty power plants. In 2015, I&M and other Indiana electric utilities tried to push legislation called House Bill 1320 that would restrict energy freedom by raising rooftop solar costs and give less than fair credit on solar owners’ bills for the power they generate. House Bill 1320 would have placed expensive fees and restrictions on rooftop solar and small-scale wind energy in Indiana, allowing monopoly utilities to continue their control of Hoosiers’ energy choices. Rooftop solar would be one means to free Hoosiers from coal plants’ chokehold, but I&M and its cohorts have attempted to rig the game in favor of electric utility control, and restrict your freedom to generate your own electricity. Hoosiers fought back and stopped the utility power grab in 2015, but we expect I&M and its friends to continue attacks on rooftop solar power.

**I&M’S 20-YEAR PLAN**

I&M recently issued a 20-year energy plan to chart a path for meeting our energy needs in the future. The 20-year energy plan, known as an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), was finalized on November 2, 2015. Today, only about 3 percent of I&M’s energy comes from wind and solar. Under I&M’s plan, renewable energy sources will grow to only about 13 percent by 2035. I&M also wants to spend more than $6 billion of your money to keep burning coal at AEP-Rockport for two or three decades. I&M rejected a less expensive plan that would retire half of the Rockport plant in 2022 and replace it with more renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, I&M’s energy efficiency programs don’t offer their Indiana customers as many rebates, home energy audits and other services as they offer to customers in Michigan. I&M doesn’t do enough to reduce energy demand and make customers’ homes and businesses more energy-efficient, but they do spend 70 cents of every energy efficiency dollar padding their profits with so-called lost revenues for electricity they no longer sell. I&M customers deserve better.

**WHAT I&M CUSTOMERS NEED**

We can keep our hard-earned dollars in our communities and create local clean energy jobs while safeguarding Hoosier health from the effects of dangerous coal pollution.

Talk to your friends and neighbors. Tell I&M CEO Paul Chodak you want him to retire one-half of AEP-Rockport by 2022 and replace it with local clean energy like solar, wind and cost-effective energy efficiency. Together, we can make a difference in our communities.

ENDNOTES

1. [http://iaspub.epa.gov/triexplorer/tri_release.facility](http://iaspub.epa.gov/triexplorer/tri_release.facility)
2. [http://www.catf.us/fossil/problems/power_plants/](http://www.catf.us/fossil/problems/power_plants/)