

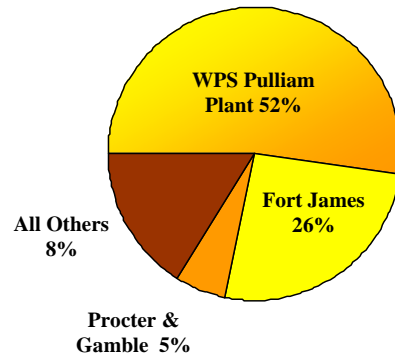


## DIRTY COAL: BROWN COUNTY'S BIGGEST POLLUTER

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's Pulliam coal-fired power plant violated its air permit every quarter for at least the last five years, pumping illegal amounts of asthma and heart attack causing pollution into our air. Unwilling to accept illegal pollution, the Sierra Club and Clean Wisconsin filed a lawsuit against Wisconsin Public Service Corporation under the Clean Air Act.

Soot, smog and mercury are the biggest threats from coal-fired power plants. The World War II-era Pulliam power plant emits the lion's share of these pollutants in Brown County, spewing more than half of all the soot, smog, and mercury that comes from smokestacks in the county. Smog triggers asthma attacks and permanently limits children's lung capacity. Brown County is approaching smog levels that EPA deems unsafe. EPA data indicates that each year 50 lung cancer deaths and 879 heart attacks in Wisconsin are attributable to power plant pollution.<sup>1</sup> The vast majority (at least 90 percent) of the deaths due to fine particle pollution could be avoided by installing readily-available modern pollution controls that are being used by other plants in the state.<sup>2</sup>

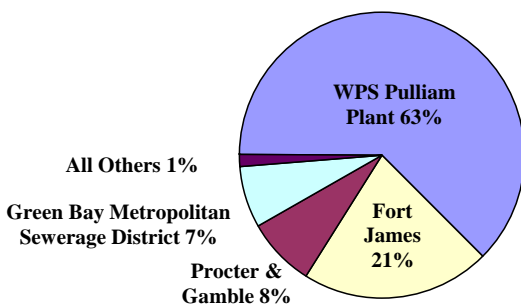
**Brown County Smog Pollution from Smoke Stacks**



\*Data from 2003 DNR Air Emission Inventory

A recent study of air pollution sources ranks Pulliam among the dirtiest coal plants in the nation - Pulliam ranks seventh for its sulfur dioxide emissions. Sulfur dioxide is a primary component of fine soot. Nitrogen oxides are also a primary component of both fine soot and smog. The Pulliam plant emits almost twice as much nitrogen oxide as the next largest nitrogen oxide polluter in ranking Brown County. In fact, it is the second highest nitrogen oxide pollution source in the entire state.

**Brown County Mercury Pollution from Smoke Stacks**



Wisconsinites are, unfortunately, very aware of the mercury polluting our waterways and fisheries. Mercury fish advisories plague all of Wisconsin's waterways. The EPA estimates that one in six women of childbearing age already carries enough mercury in her body to put her children at risk of mercury poisoning. The Pulliam plant emits more than half of all the mercury that comes from smokestacks in Brown County. In fact, it emits over three times as much as the next largest mercury polluter.

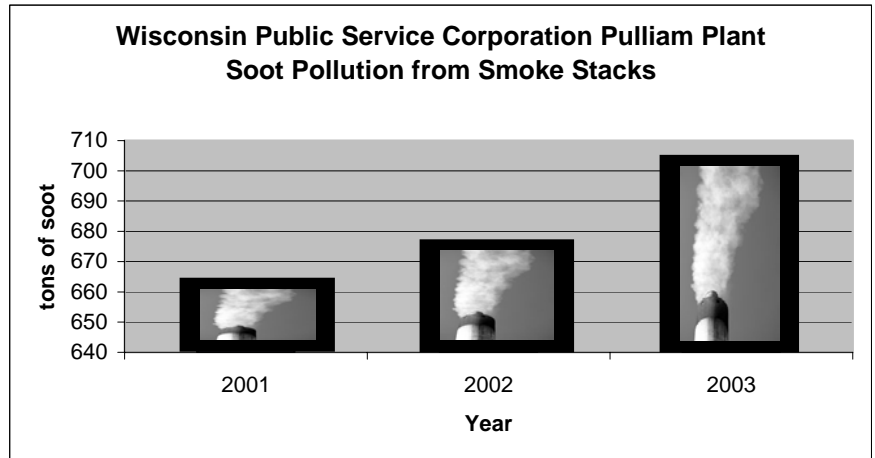
<sup>1</sup> Abt Associates report, "[Power Plant Emissions: Particulate Matter-Related Health Damages and the Benefits of Alternative Emission Reduction Scenarios.](#)" Also see [cleartheair.org](http://cleartheair.org)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid



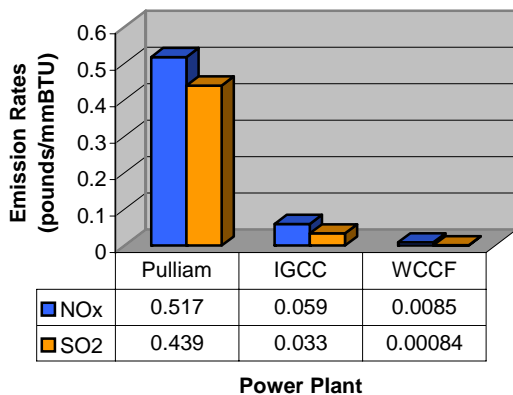
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Brown County's dirty air affects us all. The WI Department of Natural Resources has issued six air quality health advisories for Brown County. This type of pollution harms all of us, but is especially dangerous to children, those at risk for a heart attack, those who suffer from asthma, and those who work, exercise or play outside. The largest source of soot in Brown County is the Pulliam plant.



### There is a better way...

**Emission Rates: Pulliam vs IGCC & Natural Gas**



WCCF= West Campus Cogeneration Facility, a natural gas-fired facility  
IGCC= Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, a cleaner coal technology

WPS is proposing pollution controls on its new and existing power plants in Wausau. Brown County residents deserve no less. Readily-available technology – technology already in use by other coal plants – would cut soot, smog, and mercury pollution from Pulliam by 90%. At a minimum, Pulliam should be complying with its existing pollution limit. If WPS would stop breaking the law Brown County and downwind counties would experience less of the soot, smog and mercury pollution that threatens the health of Northeastern Wisconsin residents.

We also have cleaner ways of generating electricity. Wind power creates no emissions. Even natural gas, though still a fossil fuel, pollutes much less than coal. For example, a natural gas plant with state of the art modern pollution controls, like the WCCF, emits 1,000 times less pollution than Pulliam.

### **There is a better way! You can help clean up the Pulliam coal plant!**

Join the conversation by talking to your neighbors. Spread the word – many of us were not aware that this power plant does not have modern pollution controls. Submit letters to the editor in your local newspaper. Do your part – each light you leave on, each electrical outlet you plug into, is more coal burned, more soot in our air, and more mercury in our bodies. Tell your elected officials that we will no longer accept coal without modern pollution controls in our fair city. Let WPS know that it is time to clean up the worst of the worst in Brown County.

For more information contact the Sierra Club at 608.257.4994 or Clean Wisconsin at 608.251.7020 ext 14