

Sierra Club files suit regarding coal plant

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The Sierra Club filed suit in the federal district court in Wyoming on Thursday, arguing that a years-old emissions permit for the yet-to-be-constructed Two Elk coal-fired power plant near Wright is invalid and stricter emission controls should be enforced.

Two Elk Generation Partners, a subsidiary of North American Power Group, has managed to sustain a state-issued air quality permit -- which stipulates construction may not idle for a period longer than 24 consecutive months -- ever since it was first issued one in 1998.

The Sierra Club argues that the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has been too lenient in what constitutes "construction," and claims the air quality permit should be invalidated.

"Making sure that air permits are current and use the best available information and technology should be a priority," associate regional representative for the Sierra Club Brad Mohrmann said in a prepared statement.

Reached for comment, North American Power Group vice president for government affairs Brad Enzi said the company agreed to modify its air quality permit to the most recent best available control technologies, according to Wyoming regulatory standards. In fact, the company is committed to mercury controls that would be the most extensive in the state.

"(The Sierra Club) appears to be misinformed," said Enzi. "They would rather sit as an adversary in a courtroom as opposed to an organization working for the betterment of the country."

The air emissions permit was put in limbo once, then reinstated in 2003 on several specific conditions.

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