
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 564

AN ACT CONCERNING MERCURY EMISSIONS TESTING AT CERTAIN POWER PLANTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows the owner or operator of a coal-burning electric plant to reduce the frequency of mercury emissions stack testing, from quarterly to annually, if such owner or operator demonstrates compliance with the law's emissions requirements for eight consecutive calendar quarters. But, if the annual stack testing demonstrates non-compliance, the plant must resume quarterly testing.

By law, these plants must monitor mercury emissions by (1) performing quarterly stack tests or (2) averaging continuous emission monitoring data, if able to operate in a manner that provides such data. The bill retains the existing requirement that a plant owner or operator submit a quarterly report of stack test or monitoring data results to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner.

The bill also makes a technical change.

Currently, the Bridgeport power plant is the only electric plant in Connecticut that burns coal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Mercury Emissions Rate Requirement

By law, plant owners and operators must meet a mercury emissions rate (1) equal to or less than 0.6 pounds of mercury per trillion British Thermal Units (tBTU) or (2) equal to a 90% reduction from the amount of mercury introduced into the system, whichever the owner or

operator determines is more readily achievable.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/04/2013)