

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-58—sSB 564

Environment Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING MERCURY EMISSIONS TESTING AT
CERTAIN POWER PLANTS**

SUMMARY: This act allows the owner or operator of a coal-burning electric power plant to reduce the frequency of mercury emissions stack testing, from quarterly to annually, if the plant complies with the law's mercury 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 emissions monitoring data, if possible. The act retains the requirement that a plant owner or operator submit a quarterly report of stack test or monitoring data results to the energy and environmental protection commissioner.

Currently, the Bridgeport power plant is the only electric power plant in the state 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.

OLR Tracking: KLM:LH:PF:ts