

My name is Marjorie Monteleon. I live on Mt Desert Island where Acadia National Park is located. I chose to drive between 5-6 hours round trip to protest the EPA's proposed relaxing of the regulatory approach to mercury in air pollution.

Why?

Because: Some tree swallows in Acadia National Park are more mercury-contaminated than birds at a Superfund site in Massachusetts, according to Jerry Longcore, of the US Geological Survey.

Because: "The mercury in rain falling on Acadia National Park peaked at . . . close to four times the current EPA standard and over 23 times higher than the Great Lakes human-health standard." On average, the rain in Maine carries mercury levels more than three times greater than the EPA's updated human-health standard for the Great Lakes.

Because: Seal Cove, Hodgdon Pond, and Aunt Betty Pond, in Acadia National Park — are highly contaminated. It may be unsafe for anyone to eat any fish from these ponds.

Because: 20 to 25 percent of "loons" in Maine have high mercury levels, high enough, in fact, that they are at risk of neurological and behavioural problems; those loons fledge 40 percent fewer young and we know that mercury levels in loons are a measuring stick for mercury levels in our environment. And we know that mercury in our environment eventually winds up in our bodies.

Because: 3-4 million people come to Acadia each summer. We year-rounders depend on them for our living. They eat tons of our seafood, ride in our boats, buy our boats, rent lodging and campsites, buy souvenirs, gasoline etc. What happens when our fish is completely inedible? What about the fishermen, my son included? What about the boat builders?

Because: NOT JUST ACADIA

The rain in Bridgeton is contaminated with "more than twice the generic EPA aquatic life and wildlife standard and over 14 times the new more protective human-health standard developed for the Great Lakes," according to studies by the Mercury Deposition Network.

The EPA's motto is "Protecting Human Health, Safeguarding the Natural Environment. Pray tell what do they propose to tell the populace as it slowly dies from mercury contamination? What does it take to get them to abide by their motto?

Apparently it takes many lawsuits to require the EPA to DO IT'S JOB.

1. The goal of one case, by Earthjustice is to force the EPA to require Ohio to tighten the controls on some of the worst air pollution in the country. Oct. 02

2. Another case: The court settlement requires EPA to formally determine, by April 2004, which areas have smog that violates the 1997 national air quality standards for ozone. Once EPA makes those determinations, state and local governments will be called on to prepare smog cleanup plans adequate to meet the standards.

3. Another case: Challenged EPA's authorization of the use of vinclozolin; a dangerous fungicide linked with serious birth defects and other health maladies.

Mercury is one of the most toxic substances in the world, more toxic than lead or arsenic.

**SO HOW DO WE GET THE EPA TO DO IT'S JOB ?**

**ANOTHER LAWSUIT?**

We Demand an end to airborne mercury pollution?

We Demand that the EPA protect over 630,000 infants born every year with levels of mercury in their blood so high that it can cause brain damage?

