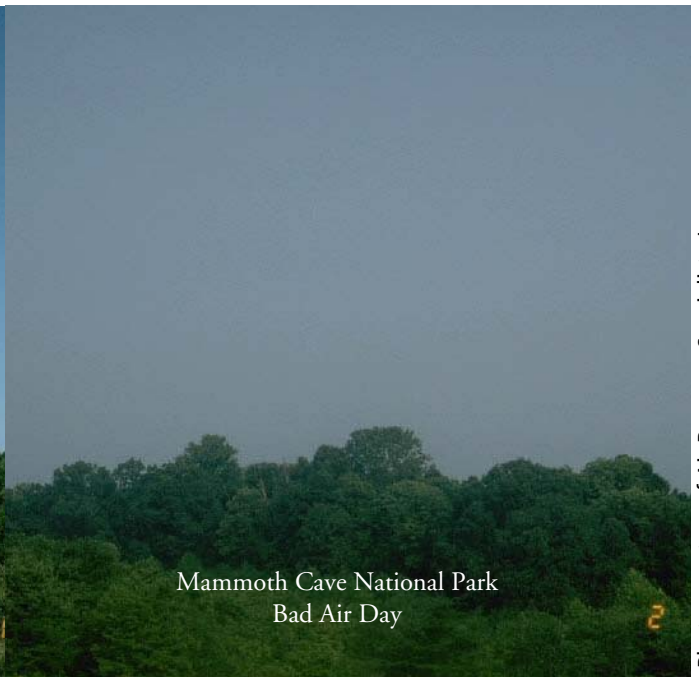




Mammoth Cave National Park
Good Air Day



Mammoth Cave National Park
Bad Air Day

Photos courtesy of Air Resource Specialists, Inc.

Mammoth Cave National Park: Air Quality at Risk

Park highlights

- Located in central Kentucky, Mammoth Cave National Park protects the world's longest known cave system, which includes five levels of subterranean rooms, narrow passageways, deep shafts, and underground rivers.
- The park, with more than 52,000 acres of land with rivers, rolling hills and scenic bluffs, is also home to 1,200 species of flowering plants, 84 species of trees, and 70 threatened or endangered species.

Current air quality

- One of the greatest threats to Mammoth Cave National Park is mercury contamination caused by emissions from coal-fired power plants. Nationwide, coal-fired power plants contribute to more than 40 percent of mercury emissions.
- Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that is passed up the food chain. The park's endangered Indiana bat has been found to have mercury at ten times the level considered safe for people.
- Ozone pollution in the park consistently exceed levels known to harm plants.
- The National Park Service says that hazy skies are a significant concern at the park.

New coal-fired power plants

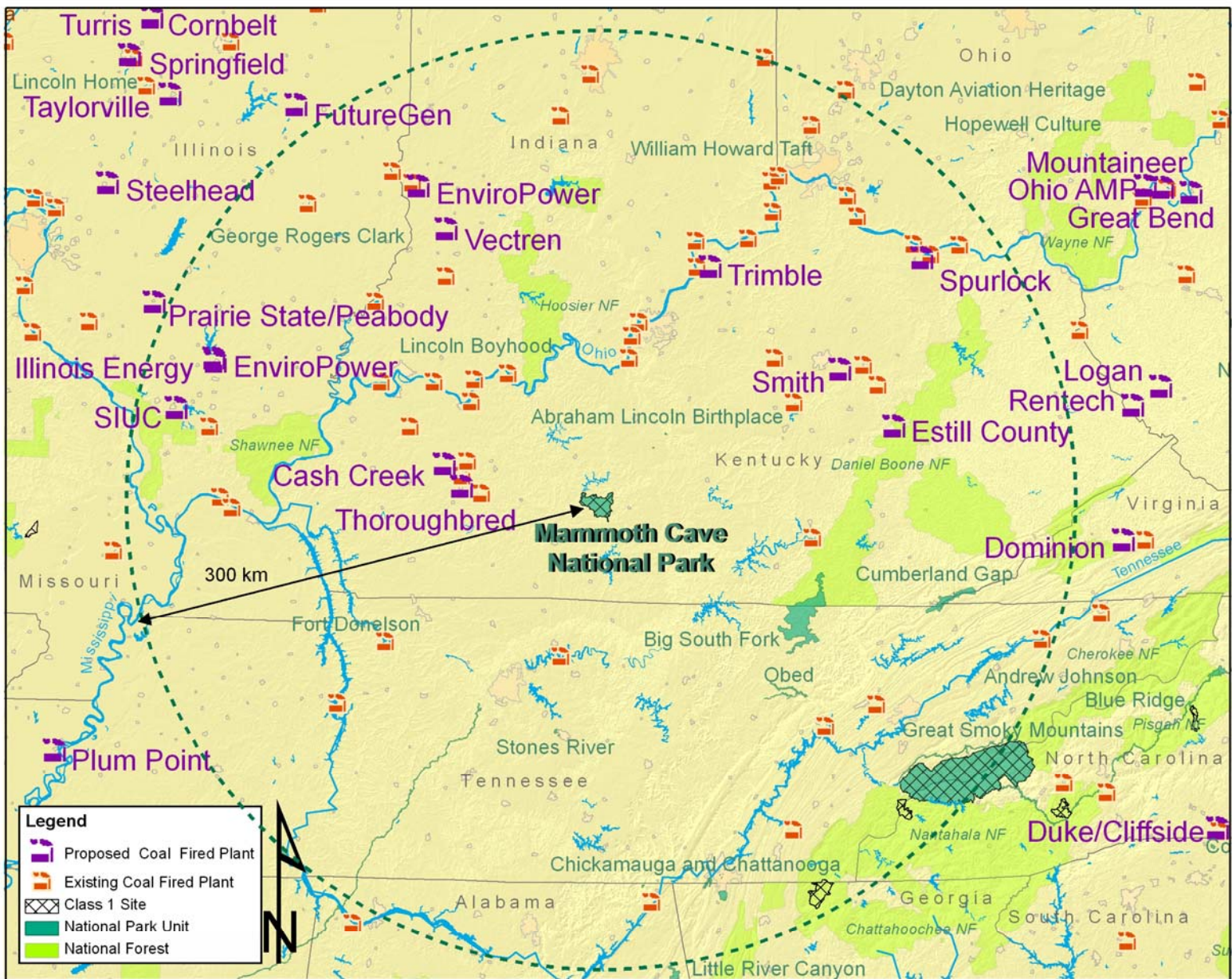
- Three new coal-fired power plants are under active development within 186 miles (300 kilometers) of Mammoth Cave, an area that already contains roughly 40 operating coal-fired power plants.
- Each year, these new plants would emit into the Mammoth Cave area air shed more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide, 14,724 tons of sulfur dioxide, 7,650 tons of nitrogen, and 606 pounds of toxic mercury, further endangering park wildlife and the health of park visitors.

National Park Service findings

- “[W]e believe that these proposed emissions [from Thoroughbred Generating Station] would have an adverse impact on visibility and could potentially affect federally listed threatened and endangered species at Mammoth Cave National Park...We ask that [Kentucky] not issue the final [air] permit until these technical issues are resolved and our concerns are adequately addressed.”
- “We ask that [Thoroughbred Generating Station] consider stricter controls on their emissions so as to lessen the impacts at Mammoth Cave NP.”



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Mammoth Cave: Proposed Coal Fired Power Plants

Power plants that have received permits or are in active permit process

Plant	Location	Owner	Size (MW)	Distance from Park	CO2 Tons/yr	SO2 Tons/yr	NOx Tons/yr	Hg lbs/yr	Permit Status
Thoroughbred Generating Station	Muhlenberg County, KY	Peabody Energy	1500 MW	74 km	8,921,928	10,893	4,566	276	Final air permit issued May 2006
JK Smith Electric Generating Station (units 1&2)	Clark County, KY	East Kentucky Power Cooperative	556 MW	185 km	1,807,000	1,991	1,858	275	Permit application submitted April 2008
Spurlock Generating Station – (unit 4)	Mason County, KY	East Kentucky Power Cooperative	300 MW	250km	1,864,267	1,840	1,226	55	Final air permit re-issued April 2008
Total New Pollution into Mammoth Cave Area Airshed					12,593,195	14,724	7,650	606	

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