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[return to main page](#)

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CAPLAN SEEKS CEMENT POLLUTION REGS

Caplan Communications is supporting non-profit Earthjustice's effort to regulate mercury pollution from cement plants throughout the U.S. Congress called for those regulations more than a decade ago.

EJ and partner, Environmental Integrity Project, released a report July 23, showing that cement kilns are releasing mercury at twice the level estimated by the EPA in 2006.



The report focused on a dozen states including New York, California, Texas, Illinois, Maryland and Michigan.

It found unregulated kilns near major bodies of water such as San Francisco Bay, Chesapeake Bay and Lake Huron.

Their pollution makes fish unsafe and poses a threat to pregnant women and young children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that eight percent of American women of child-bearing age have high enough levels of mercury in their bodies to put their babies at risk for birth defects.

The EPA has promised to issue regulations in September or October. The environmental community has little confidence in

that promise.

CC's Aric Caplan is among those skeptical about that vow, one that comes from the Bush Administration EPA. He notes that many corporate executives and their political supporters equate regulations with taxes, which is a non-starter in their point of view.

To Caplan, the issue is more about making the cement business accountable for its mercury pollution.

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