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THE HOT BLOG

Wednesday, October 01, 2008

Energy Poverty Is the Mother of All Poverty [\[Drew Thornley\]](#)

Carbon-hating environmentalists score a victory in [Central Texas](#) (hat tip: Matt Szekely):

Aluminum manufacturer Alcoa Inc. announced Tuesday that it will lay off 660 employees and close its Rockdale smelting operation, a potentially devastating blow to this small Milam County town northeast of Austin.

For years, Alcoa had been mired in a dispute with environmentalists and the federal Department of Justice over emissions from its coal-fired power plant operations on the site.

Citizens and environmental groups accused Alcoa in a lawsuit of illegally releasing more than 1 million tons of air pollution from the plant during a 17-year period.

As part of a settlement reached in 2003, Alcoa was required to pay a \$1.5 million fine, spend \$2.5 million on environmental mitigation projects in Central Texas and replace its three coal-powered electricity generating units with a single cleaner-burning, coal-powered unit.

No doubt [Al Gore](#) and [James Hansen](#) are pleased, but normal Americans bemoan the job losses and damaged livelihoods that result from the environmental lobby's assault on affordable, reliable electricity. Sadly, more — much more — is to come.

[10/01 09:30 AM](#)

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