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Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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1 – Explo to plead guilty in September, Shreveport Times, 7/28/2014
http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20140728/NEWS01/307280037/Explo-plead-guilty-September
Explo Systems Inc. will plead guilty in September to charges related to the improper storage of millions of pounds of explosives materials at its Camp Minden location, Webster Parish District Attorney Schuyler Marvin said. The plea was scheduled to have been offered today in Webster Parish District Court but was postponed because of pending action in federal court with the company's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

2 - EPA Scraps GHG-Only Permit Mandate But Leaves Option Open To States, Inside EPA, 7/28/14
http://insideepa.com/201407282477997/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-scraps-ghg-only-permit-mandate-but-leaves-option-open-to-states/menu-id-95.html?s=dn
In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling scrapping the basis for EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) permit rule, EPA will allow states to retain GHG-only requirements while withholding federal enforcement against facilities that would have needed permits based solely on their GHG emissions -- creating potentially differing approaches to GHG permitting.

3 – EPA Climate Meetings Likely To Draw Thousands; Agency's Stormwater 'Vision' Expected, Inside EPA, 7/28/14
http://insideepa.com/EPA-Daily-News/The-Week-Ahead/menu-id-991.html
EPA is hosting four meetings on its proposed greenhouse gas rules for existing power plants which are expected to draw thousands of public commenters. A top agency water official is slated to detail the agency's "vision" for addressing stormwater now that the agency has decided not to proceed with regulatory measures.

4 - Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration volunteers take on Chalmette Battlefield, Times Picayune, 7/28/14
http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2014/07/conference_on_ecological_and_e.html#incart_river
About 20 volunteers from the Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER) work a swampy section of the Chalmette battlefield, Monday, July 28, 2014, helping to restore the bottomland swamp area near the battlefield entrance by removing Chinese Tallow seedlings, an invasive plant species.

5 – Learn about how Jefferson Parish's new fully automated garbage pick-up trucks work, Times Picayune, 7/28/14
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/07/in_some_jefferson_parish_neigh.html#incart_river
Jefferson Parish's new garbage trucks run on compressed natural gas, pick up cans with a mechanical arm and are operated by a single employee -- a driver who empties curbside bins without leaving the cab. Managed by contractor Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana, the new trucks are set to debut on Wednesday, according to a news release from the parish government administration.

6 – Bogalusa paper mill discharge settlement money paid, newspaper reports, Times Picayune, 7/28/14
http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/07/bogalusa_paper_mill_discharge.html#incart_river
Around 2,000 people in Washington and St. Tammany parishes have begun receiving money for claims stemming from the Temple Inland paper mill's 2011 discharge into the Pearl River, a newspaper reported. The Daily News in Bogalusa said the total disbursement is around $15 million.

7 – Oil-Covered Owls Prompt Investigation of 'Neglected' Oil Field Site, E&E TV, 7/25/2014
http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/07/28/oil-covered-owls-prompt-investigation-of-neglected-oil-field-site/
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8 – Think It's Hot In Austin? Get Used To 110, Texas Tribune, 7/28/2014
http://www.texastribune.org/2014/07/28/think-its-hot-austin-get-used-110/
At the end of the century, Austin's average summertime high temperature could be six degrees above today's average high of 97 degrees. And it may be hotter than 110 degrees in the city more than 20 days a year; even one day that hot is a rarity now.

9 – Iraq warns against unloading tanker of Kurdish crude anchored off Galveston, Fuel Fix, 7/28/2014
http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/07/28/coast-guard-clears-tanker-carrying-disputed-kurdish-crude-anchored-off-galveston-coast/
Iraq's lawyers Monday warned a Houston maritime company against unloading a controversial load of Kurdish crude oil from a tanker anchored off the coast of Galveston, arguing the cargo is stolen property. The letter requested that Houston-based SPT inform the Iraqi government if asked to transport any of the crude and return any cargo offloaded from the tanker. The lightering company said it has never been contacted about offloading the crude and has no plans to do so.

10 – US sending coal abroad, Fuel Fix, 7/27/2014
http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/07/27/us-sending-coal-abroad/
As the Obama administration weans the U.S. off dirty fuels blamed for global warming, energy companies have been sending more of America's unwanted energy leftovers to other parts of the world where they could create even more pollution. This fossil fuel trade threatens to undermine President Barack Obama's strategy for reducing the gases blamed for climate change and reveals a little-discussed side effect of countries acting alone on a global problem.

11 – EPA to get earful from climate rule friends, foes, Politico, 7/28/2014
http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/epa-climate-change-rule-global-warming-109468.html#ixzz38rfQlKZM An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the Environmental Protection Agency on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings.

12 – Brain-eating amoeba cases, including St. Bernard death, examined by website, Times-Picayune, 7/28/2014
http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/07/arkansas_girls_survival_of_bra.html#incart_river
A recent BuzzFeed article detailing the struggle of a 12-year-old Arkansas girl to survive a brain-eating amoeba also delves into other recent cases of the infection, including the 2013 death of 4-year-old Drake Smith Jr.in St. Bernard Parish.

Explo to plead guilty in September

Written by Vickie Welborn
Jul. 28

shreveporttimes.com

MINDEN — Explo Systems Inc. will plead guilty in September to charges related to the improper storage of millions of pounds of explosives materials at its Camp Minden location, Webster Parish District Attorney Schuyler Marvin said.

The plea was scheduled to have been offered today in Webster Parish District Court but was postponed because of pending action in federal court with the company's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Marvin wants Explo to have a guilty plea on its record in case anyone associated with it attempts to obtain explosive licenses in the future in other states.

"I want to make sure this is on the record," said Marvin after learning within recent weeks the bankruptcy attorney, John Luster, is making arrangements to sell two of Explo's licenses to satisfy part of the company's debt to its creditors. "They filed notice who they are selling them to. I still don't see how they can do that but Luster wanted to conclude the transaction before the guilty plea was entered."

Also on today's Webster District Court docket was William Terry Wright, 59, of Bossier City, one of three top management officials facing criminal charges for Explo's failure to properly secure the 15 million pounds of M6 propellant discovered on site in December 2012. His case was passed as prosecutors work to get it and the two co-defendant's cases assigned to the same judge.

Wright, David Fincher, 65, of Burns, Tenn., and David Smith, 57, of Winchester, Ky., are charged with unlawful storage of explosives, reckless use of explosives, failure to obtain magazine license, failure to properly mark explosive material, failure to keep accurate inventory and conspiracy to commit each of the crimes. All have pleaded not guilty. Three other Explo employees have pleaded guilty to misdemeanor offenses.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in March ordered the U.S. Department of the Army to dispose of the explosives, which it sold to Explo under a demilitarization contract. The EPA finalized its order this month and set a deadline of midnight today for the Army to submit its intent to comply. The pricetag of removal costs has ranged from $20-30 million.

The EPA's administrative order finds the Army contributed to the illegal storage and handling of the waste explosives, thereby creating an "imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and the environment." The EPA further noted the instability of the material increased the chance of an "uncontrolled explosion," which is what happened in October 2012 when a magazine filled with M6 blew high into the night sky and rattled homes and businesses for miles away.

A subsequent investigation two months later by Louisiana state police led to the discovery of the thousands of boxes of M6 scattering Explo's property and inside its storage buildings. The product had been sitting in the elements, further increasing its potential volatility.

Fearing a chain reaction explosion, state and parish officials recommended a week-long evacuation of the nearby town of Doyline to allow emergency crews to relocate the explosives into secure magazines, also called igloos and bunkers, elsewhere on the Camp Minden property.

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Daily News

EPA Scraps GHG-Only Permit Mandate But Leaves Option Open To States

Posted: July 28, 2014

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling scrapping the basis for EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) permit rule, EPA will allow states to retain GHG-only requirements while withholding federal enforcement against facilities that would have needed permits based solely on their GHG emissions -- creating potentially differing approaches to GHG permitting.

"We do not read the Supreme Court decision to preclude states from retaining permitting requirements for sources of GHG emissions that apply independently under state law even where those requirements are no longer required under federal law," EPA air chief Janet McCabe and enforcement chief Cynthia Giles wrote in a July 24 memo outlining "next steps" for the agency's GHG permit program.

The agency's approach appears likely to create a patchwork of varying state requirements as the agency grapples with the impact of the high court's recent decision in *Utility Air Regulatory Group (UARG) v. EPA*.

In its 5-4 ruling in the case June 23, the high court found the agency exceeded its authority when it sought to "tailor" statutory permit thresholds intended for conventional pollutants. Specifically, the high court held that the agency's "tailoring rule" was at odds with Congress' intent.

The rule generally sought to raise emissions thresholds for prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permits in order to limit the number of regulated facilities. Its "step 1" raised GHG thresholds from 100/250 tons per year (tpy) to 75,000 tpy for sources already subject to PSD while its step 2 found that a source that emitted in excess of 75,000/100,000 tpy of GHGs could trigger PSD on its own.

The high court did not specifically vacate the tailoring rule, but said the agency should determine a *de minimis* GHG threshold for PSD "anyway" sources. However, the ruling provided little guidance on how EPA should proceed, creating uncertainty for regulators and facility operators.

The decision reversed a 2012 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that upheld EPA's tailoring rule and its GHG permit program in its entirety. The case will soon go back to the D.C. Circuit, where the agency hopes the court will begin to address the legal uncertainty.

As far as next steps in the legal process, EPA says the Supreme Court will soon send the decision back to the appellate court. "After this occurs, we expect that the D.C. Circuit will issue an order that leads to a process that identifies particular parts of the regulations adopted in the Tailoring Rule . . . that the EPA must revise (remanding the regulations) or that are struck down (vacating the regulations). The EPA and the Department of Justice are expected to soon begin a process of consulting with the parties to the litigation regarding this step."

EPA adds that it anticipates a need to revise PSD and Title V permit rules, as well as state implementation plans (SIPs) and approved Title V programs, but that timing and content of these actions will be "informed" by the D.C. Circuit proceedings.

'Next Steps'

In an effort to begin to address the issue before the appellate court rules, McCabe and Giles issued the July 24 memo, "Next Steps and Preliminary Views on the Application of Clean Air Act Permitting Programs to Greenhouse Gases Following the Supreme Court's Decision in *Utility Air Regulatory Group (UARG) v. [EPA]*," saying the agency for now intends to continue to enforce step 1 of the tailoring rule, and will retain a 75,000 tpy threshold for triggering GHG limits at facilities whose conventional emissions require a

major source PSD permit, known as "anyway" sources.

But the agency adds that states that have adopted the tailoring rule provisions into their SIPs can choose to retain those limits.

However, the agency notes other states have laws that do not allow them to impose rules that are more stringent than what the federal government requires and that those laws "may automatically modify state-law requirements based on the Supreme Court's decision. To the extent such provisions were approved by the EPA as part of a SIP, regional offices should encourage such states to contact the EPA to discuss implementation of those provisions."

EPA also urges its regional offices to meet with permitting authorities and permit applicants "to explore their plans to respond to the Supreme Court's decision. These conversations should examine whether, in light of the Supreme Court decision, there is flexibility under state, local and tribal laws to determine that Step 2 sources no longer are required to obtain PSD permits prior to the completion of any actions to repeal or revise such regulations."

But EPA also notes that step 2 sources "likely have a continuing obligation to obtain minor source construction permits under the applicable SIP as a result of their emissions of non-GHG pollutants. Thus, we recommend discussing with state, local and tribal permitting authorities and permit applicants the feasibility of converting pending permit applications into minor source permit applications.

For step 2 sources that already have final PSD or Title V permits -- which would only be for their GHG emissions -- EPA says "it may be appropriate to ultimately remove the GHG. . . limitations from such permits and to convert such permits into minor source permits where this is feasible."

EPA says it will provide more guidance on this issue, and intends to "actively engage . . . on time-sensitive actions, such as permit applications, state program submissions, and stationary source construction that may no longer need to meet certain permitting requirements. The EPA is likely to take other steps in the longer term and to respond to further court action in this case as needed," the memo says.

Also in the short term, EPA says it "will no longer apply or enforce federal regulatory provisions or the EPA-approved PSD SIP provisions that require a stationary source to obtain a PSD permit" only for their GHG emissions.

Further, EPA says it will drop a five-year study on GHG permitting that had been due by April 2015 that could have led to a Step 4 of the tailoring rule. The high court decision means such a study is no longer needed, the memo says.

Finally, EPA says it reads the *UARG* ruling as narrowing the scope of the need for biogenic carbon dioxide permits under PSD, given that as a result biomass facilities cannot trigger major source permits based on their GHGs alone even after EPA's three-year PSD permit deferral for biomass GHGs expired July 21.

EPA's work on a biomass accounting framework remains "ongoing," the memo says. "Continuing our current approach, [the air office] recommends that Regional Offices consult with sources and permitting authorities on biomass-related permitting questions as they arise." -- *Dawn Reeves* (dreeves@iwpnews.com)

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The Week Ahead

Posted: July 28, 2014

EPA Climate Meetings Likely To Draw Thousands; Agency's Stormwater 'Vision' Expected

EPA is hosting four meetings on its proposed greenhouse gas rules for existing power plants which are expected to draw thousands of public commenters. A top agency water official is slated to detail the agency's "vision" for addressing stormwater now that the agency has decided not to proceed with regulatory measures.

Climate Change Policy

EPA is holding four public meetings -- in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington, DC -- this week on its landmark proposed rule governing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing power plants, events that are drawing participants from across state lines.

According to local accounts, advocates on both sides from Kentucky are planning to travel over 400 miles to the Atlanta meeting to present their views.

The Washington, DC, meeting will be held at EPA headquarters July 29-30, with hearings in Atlanta, GA and Denver, CO, the same days. The meeting in Pittsburgh is slated for July 31-Aug. 1.

The meetings are likely to review many of the comments the agency has already received on its proposed Clean Air Act section 111(d) existing source performance standard (ESPS) for carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, as well as the thousands of additional formal comments it is likely to receive through the fall.

Speakers are likely to include environmental justice groups and supporters who say that the proposal does not adequately protect economically disadvantaged communities and minorities -- for instance, by allowing cap-and-trade programs that could create emission "hot spots" in equity areas.

A coalition of utilities, refiners and large industrial manufacturers last week threatened litigation if EPA does not make significant changes to its proposed rule, charging it will harm the nation's economy and grid reliability. And state energy regulators and industry lawyers are warning that EPA faces major legal hurdles if it is forced to impose federal requirements on states that fail to fully implement its ESPS, arguing such actions could infringe on state regulatory power and could invite conservative states to test the limits of EPA's authority.

With the hearings underway, the administration and its supporters are expected to continue to argue that the rule is essential given the high cost of inaction.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), chairman of the Senate Climate Caucus as well as the environment committee's oversight panel, is holding a July 29 hearing, titled "Examining the Threats Posed by Climate Change."

In a note to reporters, the senator's office said the hearing is intended to bolster the agency's proposed rule. "While opponents of EPA's Clean Power Plan -- including Minority Leader Mitch McConnell -- plan to argue that it constitutes a 'war on coal,' Whitehouse's hearing will focus on the harm that fossil fuels are already inflicting on communities across the country by endangering public health, compromising infrastructure, and harming resources that people depend on to make a living."

Witnesses slated to testify include representatives of the re-insurance industry, which is expected to face significant new risks from climate change, local Florida officials, who are grappling with similar concerns, and Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, the long-time skeptic of climate regulations.

While no administration officials are slated to testify at the hearing, acting EPA air chief Janet McCabe will speak on the ESPS at a

July 29 lunch hosted by the Natural Gas Roundtable, "Overview of the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan."

The Republican message -- that EPA's proposed rule will undermine grid reliability and spike electricity prices -- is likely to get a more thorough hearing before the House Energy & Commerce Committee, which is holding a hearing July 29 titled "FERC Perspectives: Questions Concerning EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan and other Grid Reliability Challenges." Panelists at the hearing consist solely of current FERC members, including acting Chair Cheryl LaFleur.

EPA has already faced criticism of the ESPS over its potential impact on reliability, and the planned hearing suggests a growing interest by lawmakers in conducting oversight of the proposed ESPS. And ahead of the hearing, committee members sent FERC a four-page list of questions about the commission's involvement in EPA's analysis of the ESPS' grid impacts, while prodding the commission to conduct its own independent analysis and raising a variety of concerns with EPA's plans.

Meanwhile, state regulators are preparing a series of seminars aimed at supporting compliance with the ESPS. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is holding a July 28 workshop on complying with the ESPS focused on regional cap-and-trade and market-based tools, titled "Getting There Together: A NARUC Workshop on Regional Compliance Options for Sec. 111d." Speakers there include EPA associate air chief and senior counsel Joseph Goffman, as well as a host of state air officials.

And later in the week, the Environmental Council of the States is hosting "Planning for CO2 Reductions Under 111(d)" July 31, with McCabe, Department of Energy (DOE) climate head Judi Greenwald and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) commissioner Tony Clark set to discuss the rule.

Biofuels

DOE is holding a two-day seminar on the future of biofuels, titled "Biomass 2014: Growing the Future Bioeconomy", where officials and industry representatives will discuss challenges in developing the fuels and accounting for their GHG impacts.

But the future of GHG policy for biofuels is in question, as industry groups are still weighing their response to a federal appeals court's ruling that found unlawful EPA's decision to temporarily defer GHG permit requirements for the sector, which could subject the industry to greater regulatory requirements if it stands. But in their new filing, the biomass sector groups say the court should reconsider its decision in light of the Supreme Court ruling upholding much of EPA's GHG regulatory agenda.

Regulating Stormwater

How is EPA planning to regulate stormwater now that it has shelved several rulemaking efforts?

Deborah Nagle, director of EPA's water permits division, could provide some of the answers. Nagle is slated to provide the July 29 keynote address to EPA Region VI's annual stormwater conference in Fort Worth, TX, where she will discuss the "future vision" on EPA stormwater policies.

Nagle is expected to provide an update on the agency's plans after officials shelved a rulemaking that had been expected to set numeric stormwater retention standards for all new construction and redevelopment projects. Officials have also rejected a petition from environmentalists to subject additional stormwater sources to permit requirements. The agency's decisions are leading environmentalists to increasingly sue industrial facilities in Clean Water Act citizen suits over their stormwater releases in an effort to strengthen their permit requirements without waiting for direct action by EPA or state regulators.

Other speakers set to address technical and policy issues from every corner of the sector. Topics on the agenda include green infrastructure, EPA's vision for the Total Maximum Daily Load waterbody cleanup program, the use of stormwater fees to fund infrastructure construction, water quality monitoring and modeling approaches and more.

The Region VI conference will also host a discussion of integrated design for storm and sanitary sewers, soon after the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee held a July 24 hearing to consider pilot programs for the initiative -- though the panel faced competing calls from municipal and utility officials who are pushing three different bills for how to address the issue.

Toxics

EPA's toxics office is set to hold an expert forum July 29-30 on alternatives to the degreaser trichloroethylene (TCE), where speakers will apply results from the agency's June 25 assessment of TCE that identified health risks to workers exposed to the substance during degreasing in small shops and also in drycleaners when TCE is used as a stain remover.

The agency's TCE "workplan" assessment, which identified several health and ecological risks from exposures, is the first EPA has completed under a novel effort to evaluate and possibly regulate "existing" chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. The program will eventually lead to 83 priority "workplan" chemical risk assessments. Unlike the hazard assessments conducted for the agency's Integrated Risk Information System program, the new workplan assessments consider specific chemical uses.

In other toxics news, a Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Science Advisory Panel is meeting July 29-Aug. 1 to discuss new methods to estimate chemical exposure levels. The panel's advice could eventually help EPA adopt high throughput screening and other computer-based assessment methods to estimate exposure and other risks for its chemical regulatory programs, especially its endocrine disruptor screening program.

Finally, EPA's Science Advisory Board is set to peer-review the draft Report on the Environment July 30-31. The latest draft report, an extensive document intended to measure the health of the environment and its impacts on Americans, was published in April and contains first-time indicators on sustainability, including metrics on energy use, freshwater withdrawals, hazardous waste and municipal solid waste.

Gulf Spill

Meanwhile, Congress is looking at the state of the Gulf of Mexico four years after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, in a Senate Commerce Committee hearing, "Revisiting the RESTORE Act: Progress and Challenges in Gulf Restoration Post-Deepwater Horizon." The hearing will examine implementation of the 2012 act, which sought to allocate funding for environmental restoration in the Gulf, as well as implementation of the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and other policies meant to rehabilitate damage from the spill.

The hearing comes as experts are gathering in New Orleans, LA, for the Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration, running July 28-Aug. 1, which will focus on efforts to reverse damage to "aquatic, marine, and terrestrial environments" -- in particular the Gulf, but also EPA's cleanup plan for the Chesapeake Bay as well as implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act in general.

Discussion of the Gulf spill comes as litigation continues over how courts will rule on liability for the disaster. Most recently, a key federal appeals court in June upheld a lower court ruling that held two oil companies, rather than the rig operator, strictly liable for civil penalties due to the 2010 Gulf oil spill, rejecting arguments from the firms that the government claimed could significantly undermine the law's deterrent effect against harmful discharges.

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Everything New Orleans

Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration volunteers take on Chalmette Battlefield

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The theme for this project on CEER Make a Difference Event Day is "Sometimes you just have to get dirty and fight." Most appropriate considering that the volunteers will be grubbing plants out of the mud---and that this end of the battlefield bore the brunt of the British attack during the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

The conference is a collaborative effort of the leaders of the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration and the Society for Ecological Restoration and will bring together ecological and ecosystem restoration scientists and practitioners to address challenges and share information about restoration projects, programs, and research from across North America.

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Everything New Orleans

Learn about how Jefferson Parish's new fully automated garbage pick-up trucks work

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on July 28, 2014 at 3:11 PM, updated July 28, 2014 at 4:34 PM

Jefferson Parish's new garbage trucks run on compressed natural gas, pick up cans with a mechanical arm and are operated by a single employee -- a driver who empties curbside bins without leaving the cab. Managed by contractor Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana, the new trucks are set to debut on Wednesday, according to a news release from the parish government administration.

Read more about how Jefferson is moving to automate garbage collection.

Residents might notice a change in the time that their garbage is picked up, as collection routes will vary. Collection days will stay the same. They also will notice that the new blue trucks look different, and work very differently as well.

The trucks are an advantage for the employees who pick up garbage, as they no longer need to work behind the trucks in traffic or lift heavy loads, according to the release.

How the trucks work

The fully automated trucks will be put to work only in those neighborhoods where few cars are parked on the street and where roads are wide enough to allow the truck to pass.

To pick up garbage, the driver sits along the right side of the truck, where he or she operates a mechanism that reaches out for garbage carts, grabs them, empties them into a receptacle at the front of the truck and returns the carts to their spots. The truck travels alongside one side of a street before tackling the other. When the truck's front receptacle is full, the driver will operate a mechanism that lifts it to empty into the body of the truck.

The driver need only jog out of the truck to pick up any waste that is not placed in the new 96-gallon garbage carts, which are being distributed to residents and small business owners through Sept. 15.

Collection times may vary

According to the news release, collection times might change because the new trucks run up a single side of the street rather than sweep up both sides simultaneously. "Collection times on different sides of the same street may be several hours apart," the news release reads.

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For more information, call Jefferson Environmental Affairs Director Marnie Winter at 504.731.4612.

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Everything New Orleans

Bogalusa paper mill discharge settlement money paid, newspaper reports

Bob Warren, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Bob Warren, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
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on July 28, 2014 at 12:06 PM, updated July 28, 2014 at 12:10 PM

Around 2,000 people in Washington and St. Tammany parishes have begun receiving money for claims stemming from the Temple Inland paper mill's 2011 discharge into the Pearl River, a newspaper reported. The Daily News in Bogalusa said the total disbursement is around $15 million.

The discharge in August 2011 caused a massive fish kill. A federal judge ordered Temple Inland to pay $3.3 million in fines and restitution and put the company on probation.

The Daily News quoted an attorney who said the recipients of the settlement checks last week were mostly people who live near or on the Pearl River between Bogalusa and the Slidell.

International Paper purchased the mill in February 2012 and the company said it committed millions of dollars to improving its operations.

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Oil-Covered Owls Prompt Investigation of 'Neglected' Oil Field Site

JULY 28, 2014 | 10:04 AM

BY JOE WERTZ

The discovery of two barn oils coated in oil has prompted an investigation of a "neglected" oil field site in northwest Oklahoma.

One of the owls died, the *Enid News & Eagle* reported on July 25. The surviving bird is eating, walking and climbing and is being monitored by Jean Neal, a Fairview caretaker "licensed to handle small non-migratory animals."

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission and state Department of Wildlife Conservation are investigating a site near the Major and Garfield County lines. Inspectors found several other dead birds floating in a saltwater tank at the site, the paper reports:

> *A preliminary report, compiled by an Oklahoma Corporation Commission oil and gas field inspector, noted there was oil on the ground around the tank and in several other areas inside the dike. Rig anchors were not marked, and there were no Oklahoma Tax Commission numbers on the storage tanks or the meter house, the report stated.*

Federal rules require saltwater tanks to be covered. The site also lacked required signage, according to the preliminary inspection report, so it's unclear at this time who is responsible for the tanks.

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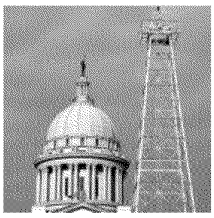

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by Neena Satija | July 28, 2014 | 27 Comments

Enlarge photo by: Callie Richmond

The Onion Creek substation was badly flooded with heavy storms last fall. It is one of the many "critical infrastructure assets" whose vulnerability to climate change will be studied by Austin.

At the end of the century, Austin's average summertime high temperature could be six degrees above today's average high of 97 degrees. And it may be hotter than 110 degrees in the city more than 20 days a year; even one day that hot is a rarity now.

Those are among the findings of a study that the city commissioned last year on the impact of climate change. While an aversion to climate science persists in much of conservative, Republican-led Texas, Austin is looking to prepare for what scientists say are the inevitable consequences of climate change that are already hitting the city.

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"If you're going to build a substation that's going to cost tens of millions of dollars but it's not going to operate over 110 degrees, it's really important to be thinking about that now," said Zach Baumer, the city's climate program manager. While other Texas cities have looked at climate change issues, none have done comprehensive studies of their impact.

The study, which Baumer said cost less than $20,000, was the start of Austin's efforts to apply global climate projections specifically to the city. Reports from groups like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change focus on global temperature and rainfall models, which for Austin are "just not useful to actually make decisions," Baumer said. With forecasts specifically related to Austin, "we can start to put plans in place and act in ways that make sense, and not just sort of generalize, 'Oh, we're doing something about it,' " he added.

The study, which was done by the scientific research and consulting firm Atmos, also found that while Austin would probably experience longer dry spells and receive less rain over all, it would be hit more frequently with "extreme precipitation" events that could lead to widespread flooding. City departments recently asked the City Council for more than $650,000 for detailed assessments of how climate change could affect Austin's infrastructure, from its water reservoirs and power plants to its parks.

Beyond Austin's efforts, regional planning organizations in the Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth areas are among several across the country using federal highway funds to study the effects of global warming on critical road infrastructure. Baumer said the impact on roads was among the easiest to study in the context of climate change, because engineers already know what temperatures and conditions the roads can withstand.

Still, without broader cooperation from the state, it is unclear how far individual cities can go. State water officials do not consider climate change when planning for Texas' future, and legislators will not ask them to anytime soon, said state Sen. Troy Fraser, a Republican and chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

"It's not a parameter that we've requested they look at," Fraser

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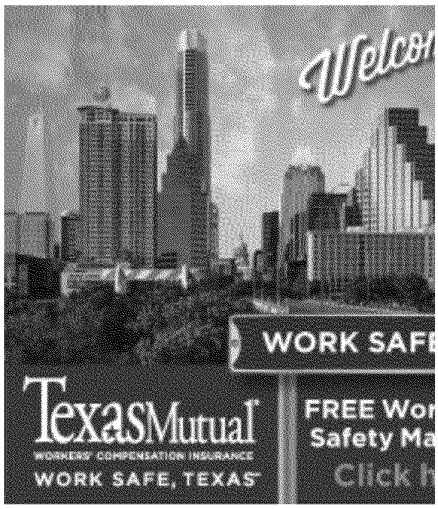

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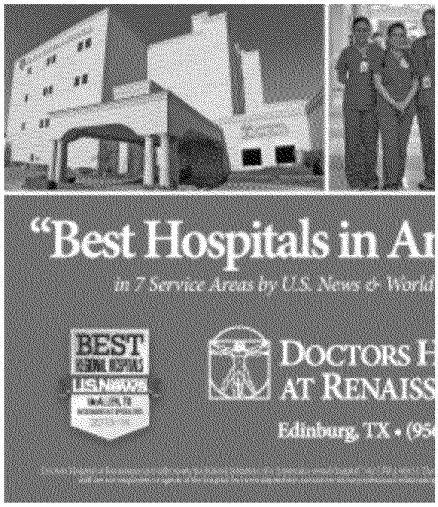
said in a June intervew. “There’s a disagreement within the people of Texas on the science of greenhouse gases.”

The operators of the electric grid that serves Austin and most of Texas have not done comprehensive studies on the effects of climate change on power plants or substations, although they have noted that the record-breaking summer in recent years has caused power plants in Texas to stop operating or reduce their loads. Robbie Searcy, a spokeswoman for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said its projections of energy demand rely on temperature data from the last 12 years.

“A projection for higher temperatures in the future would not be in the models at this time,” Searcy said. “If we see trends change, we can tweak the models in the future.”

Still, Austin’s City Council plans to go ahead with its own assessments of climate change, as well as adopting goals to better keep track of greenhouse gas emissions and reduce them accordingly.

“I think there is real value to setting an example and demonstrating what a city can achieve,” said Chris Riley, a councilman who has pushed for climate change studies.



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Iraq warns against unloading tanker of Kurdish crude anchored off Galveston

Posted on July 28, 2014 at 12:40 pm by Rhiannon Meyers in Crude oil, featured, General

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A tanker sails in the morning sun. (Louis Vest, Getty Images)

Iraq's lawyers Monday warned a Houston maritime company against unloading a controversial load of Kurdish crude oil from a tanker anchored off the coast of Galveston, arguing the cargo is stolen property.

The letter requested that Houston-based SPT inform the Iraqi government if asked to transport any of the crude and return any cargo offloaded from the tanker. The lightering company said it has never been contacted about offloading the crude and has no plans to do so.

"This seems to be a legally charged issue at this point, and the last thing I want to do is get embroiled in some massive political dispute and have our name dragged through the mud," company President Simon Duncan said in an interview with Fuel Fix.

Vinson and Elkins, the global law firm that authored the letter, did not return repeated requests for comment.

The United Kalavryta left the Turkish port in June carrying crude oil from a newly opened pipeline in the Kurdish oil fields in Iraq that bypasses the Iraqi state oil company. The shipment has infuriated Iraq, which argues that the oil was smuggled out of the country and says its state oil company must broker all oil from within its borders.

The U.S. Coast Guard on Sunday cleared the vessel to offload its cargo, potentially paving the way for an import that could complicate U.S. relations with Iraq, which has threatened to sue any buyers, but as of Monday afternoon, offloading had not started. And it's not clear when it will or whether the threats of legal action may force the tanker to offload the cargo elsewhere.

"It wouldn't surprise me if it ends up sitting there for a little while or ends up going to another port," said Jamie Webster, senior director of global oil markets for IHS, an energy analyst firm.

The buyer has not been identified. Reuters reported the ship is carrying 1 million barrels of crude worth $100 million based on international prices.

While the U.S. government, which backs a central unified Iraq government, discourages companies from buying crude from the Kurdish Regional Government, it has not banned such purchases outright, Reuters reported.

The U.S. State Department has declined to intervene in a possible sale, calling the matter a private transaction.

Still, if the deal goes through, the purchase could could mark a significant economic leap toward independence for the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq, said Ed Hirs, who teaches energy economics at the University of Houston.

"Without economic hard currency and established trading partners, it would be very difficult for the Kurdish region to become separate, autonomous and sovereign, or basically secede from Iraq," he said.

But, Hirs said, without knowing the buyer, it's tough to say how much the transaction could complicate U.S. Iraqi relations.

The Kurdish Regional Government has had mixed results selling its crude. Of the four tankers that set sail carrying 1 million barrels of oil, including the ship now anchored off the coast of Galveston, only one successfully sold its content, reportedly to a buyer in Israel, according to Houston investment banking firm Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co. The KRG sold the cargo for $93 million but has yet to receive proceeds from the sale, the firm reported.

Coast Guard crews boarded the United Kalavryta on Sunday to conduct routine safety inspections and determined the vessel met all requirements, paving the way for the tanker to begin offloading crude, said petty officer Andy Kendrick, a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard Houston-Galveston sector.

The vessel is anchored about 60 miles off the coast of Galveston and has too deep a draught to transit the Houston Ship Channel. It's anchored in an area reserved for too-large tankers to offload cargo onto smaller tankers, which then bring the shipment to port.

None of these smaller vessels had yet to request a Coast Guard inspection by Monday morning, a necessary step for them to dock, Kendrick said.

It's not known which vessels, or how many, are planning to take the United Kalavryta's disputed cargo. On Monday morning, the Galveston-Texas City pilots had no pending orders from oil tankers requesting their services to guide the vessels into port.

Because of the political sensitivity of the transaction, the Coast Guard worked closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the state department and the U.S. National Security Council but no additional measures were necessary, Kendrick said.

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The vessel notified the Coast Guard of its planned arrival last week, Kendrick said.

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US sending coal abroad

Posted on July 27, 2014 at 11:02 pm by Associated Press in Coal, Electricity, General, Markets, Politics/Policy

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By Dina Cappiello, Associated Press

In this May 22, 2014 photo, a rainbow forms as sprinklers spray water to prevent coal dust from entering the air at Dominion Terminal Associates' coal terminal in Newport News, Va. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — As the Obama administration weans the U.S. off dirty fuels blamed for global warming, energy companies have been sending more of America's unwanted energy leftovers to other parts of the world where they could create even more pollution.

This fossil fuel trade threatens to undermine President Barack Obama's strategy for reducing the gases blamed for climate change and reveals a little-discussed side effect of countries acting alone on a global problem. The contribution of this exported pollution to global warming is not something the administration wants to measure, or even talk about.

"This is the single biggest flaw in U.S. climate policy," said Roger Martella, the former general counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush. "Although the administration is moving forward with climate change regulations at home, we don't consider how policy decisions in the United States impact greenhouse gas emissions in other parts of the world."

Over the past six years, American energy companies have sent more coal than ever before to other parts of the world, in some cases to places with more lax environmental standards.

The consequence: This global shell game makes the U.S. appear to be making more progress than it is on global warming. That's because it shifts some pollution — and the burden for cleaning it up — onto other countries' balance sheets.

"Energy exports bit by bit are chipping away at gains we are making on carbon dioxide domestically," said Shakeb Afsah, an economist who runs an energy consulting firm in Bethesda, Maryland.

As companies look to double U.S. coal exports, with three new terminals along the West Coast, America could be fueling demand for coal when many experts say that most fossil fuels should remain buried to avert the most disastrous effects of climate change.

But the administration has resisted calls from governors in Washington and Oregon to evaluate and disclose such global fallout, saying that if the U.S. didn't supply the coal, another country would.

White House officials say U.S. coal has a negligible global footprint and reducing coal's use worldwide is the best way to ease global warming. The U.S. in 2012 accounted for 9 percent of worldwide coal exports, the latest data available. "There may be a very marginal increase in coal exports caused by our climate policies," said Rick Duke, Obama's deputy climate adviser, in an interview with The Associated Press. "Given that coal supply is widely available from many sources, our time is better spent working on leading toward a global commitment to cut carbon pollution on the demand side."

Guidance drafted by White House officials in 2010 did outline how broadly agencies should look at carbon emissions from U. S. projects. Four years later, that guidance is still under review.

"They have sat on their hands," said George Kimbrell, a senior attorney for the Center for Food Safety, which has sued the administration over this delay.

Carbon dioxide, regardless of where it enters the atmosphere, contributes to the sea level rise and in some cases severe weather in the U.S. and the world.

Changing the global system to account for production would carry political risks, especially for the U.S., which is trying to boost production of energy and exports even as it addresses global warming.

"The U.S. needs to be pragmatic on this," said Jason Bordoff, director of Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. "If our coal exports are very small and having no or little impact on global greenhouse gas emissions … the government has to take into account the economic and foreign policy costs of restricting exports." He was a National Security Council energy and climate change adviser to Obama until January 2013.

Over the past six years, as the U.S. cut coal consumption by 195 million tons, about 20 percent of that coal was shipped overseas, according to an AP analysis of Energy Department data.

Less coal being burned here has helped the power sector reduce carbon emissions by 12 percent and left more U.S. coal in the ground. But a growing share is finding its way abroad.

Analyses suggest U.S. exports could be reducing by half or wiping out completely the pollution savings in the U.S. from switching power plants from coal to natural gas

The nexus of the challenge can be found in and around Norfolk, Virginia, which exports more coal than any other place

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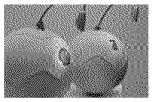

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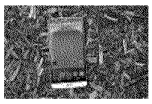

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in the U.S. and is already experiencing one of the country's fastest rates of sea level rise.

When the Prime Lilly, a massive cargo ship, set sail from Norfolk recently, its 80,000 tons of coal were destined for power plants and factories in South America. The 228,800 tons of carbon dioxide contained in that coal disappeared from America's pollution ledger. But it still pollutes the planet.

It's a planet hungry for American coal. U.S. exports to Germany have more than doubled since 2008, providing a cheaper alternative to cleaner-burning natural gas and a replacement for nuclear power, which is being phased out after Japan's nuclear accident.

Last year, Germany's carbon dioxide emissions grew by 1.2 percent, in large part because the country burned more coal.

German environmental officials say the recent boom in coal-fired power is making it harder for the country to meet its climate-protection goals, even as it has increased renewable energy and participates in a carbon market that has lowered emissions throughout Europe.

Activists partly blame the U.S.

"This is a classic case of political greenwashing," said Dirk Jansen, a spokesman for BUND, a German environmental group. "Obama pretties up his own climate balance, but it doesn't help the global climate at all if Obama's carbon dioxide is coming out of chimneys in Germany."

—

Associated Press reporters David Rising and Kirsten Grieshaber contributed reporting from Berlin and Luenen, Germany.

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So...How much taxation of U.S. citizens will it take to compensate for the pollution caused by the coal we're shipping to other countries? Surely they're (the recipients) not going to levy a carbon tax commensurate with the ones on our or European citizens. And exactly how much money will it take for the greenhouse gases, caused by man (you know the 4 percent of the total of all greenhouse gases...as the vast majority (96%) of "greenhouse gases" are formed naturally) to magically and mystically disappear? The way it looks (with the U.S. shipping "dirty" coal and other petroleum distillates and products to other countries for creating electricity, fuel oil and petrol) it doesn't seem as if this administration or any other governments are very serious about carbon/greenhouse gas reduction at all. In fact, it looks more and more like a scam every day...

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POLITICO

EPA to get earful from climate rule friends, foes

By: Andrew Restuccia
July 28, 2014 11:18 PM EDT

Get comfortable.

An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the Environmental Protection Agency on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings.

Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third.

The grueling 11-hour sessions, which will be held over two days in Washington, Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh, aren't likely to bridge the massive gap between the Republicans and industry groups that hate the rule and the liberals and environmentalists who love it.

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Instead, expect both sides to dig in their heels, polishing off long-standing talking points about how the regulation is likely to either destroy the economy or save the planet.

It's difficult to draw any broad conclusions from the hearings about how the average person feels about the regulation because many of those who will testify are closely associated with groups that have taken stands for or against the proposed carbon restrictions. Environmental and industry groups have hired buses to send members to the hearings in droves. Polls show that the majority of the public supports the rule.

The hearings are shaping up to be something of a spectacle, with many groups planning splashy events aimed at standing out in the crowd.

(Also on POLITICO: Feds approve oil exploration off US Eastern Coast)

The Koch-backed group Americans for Prosperity, for example, is holding rallies in Atlanta and Denver on Tuesday. AFP President Tim Phillips, who will testify at the hearing, will speak at the rally in Atlanta, along with Kentucky Coal Association President Bill Bissett.

Unsurprisingly, the coal industry will have a major presence at the hearings. Officials with the industry group American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity are scheduled to testify at all four hearings, and the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and the Colorado Mining Association are each busing miners to the rallies in their states. The United Mine Workers of America is holding a rally in opposition to the rule on Thursday in Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is slated to speak at Wednesday's

hearing in Washington. He'll then hold a news conference with members of the Congressional Coal Caucus and Jimmy Rose, a former coal miner who rose to prominence in conservative circles after singing "Coal Keeps the Lights On" on the reality show "America's Got Talent."

McConnell is facing a tight reelection bid in Kentucky, the nation's third-largest coal producer, and he has emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the rule. He has authored a bill to kill the regulation and he regularly warns in Senate floor speeches that it would destroy the coal industry.

(Also on POLITICO: Full energy and environment policy coverage)

Other lawmakers scheduled to testify at the hearings: Sens. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, the Republican Senate candidate from West Virginia. After speaking at Tuesday's hearing in Washington, Markey will hold a news conference with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, a Johns Hopkins University medical professor and representatives from the Latino Victory Project, Green Latinos and the Hip Hop Caucus.

But EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday she won't be attending any of the hearings. "That would be pretty unprecedented," McCarthy told reporters. "And it's not really about me. It's about listening to people coming in."

And the rhetoric is already heating up.

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) compared EPA's tactics to "terrorism" Monday at a Heritage Foundation forum on the EPA.

Kelly paraphrased the infamous words of former EPA regional administrator Al Armendariz, who resigned two years ago after a video showed him saying that his enforcement philosophy was "kind of like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw and they would crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years."

"You talk about terrorism," Kelly said. "You can do it in a lot of different ways."

Greens are also planning events surrounding the hearings.

The Moms Clean Air Force is organizing "play-ins" with moms and their children outside the four hearings this week. The events are aimed at underscoring the public health benefits of the rule, particularly for children.

Environmental groups sought to project a united front in support of the rule ahead of the hearings.

"It's the biggest step we've ever taken against climate change, which today is already harming our health and environment," Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke said on a call with reporters Monday, referring to EPA's climate rule.

"We can't wait any longer to protect ourselves and future generations," Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt added.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said he expects "busloads" of the group's members to attend the hearings. And Beinecke said she expects doctors, farmers and

mayors to attend, as well as NRDC members.

While several environmental groups have said they hope to push for improvements to the rule, expect greens to focus on their broad support for the regulation.

“Our focus at these hearings is going to be that this is an absolutely essential step forward,” Beinecke said.

Amy R. Sisk and Erica Martinson contributed to this report.

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Everything New Orleans

Brain-eating amoeba cases, including St. Bernard death, examined by website

Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
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on July 28, 2014 at 4:05 PM, updated July 28, 2014 at 4:24 PM

A recent BuzzFeed article detailing the struggle of a 12-year-old Arkansas girl to survive a brain-eating amoeba also delves into other recent cases of the infection, including the 2013 death of 4-year-old Drake Smith Jr. in St. Bernard Parish.

The Arkansas girl, Kali Hardig, was the third known survivor of the infection, according to BuzzFeed. She was released from the hospital on Sept. 11, 2013, a day before Louisiana health officials announced the amoeba was in St. Bernard's water supply.

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune reported how that announcement made St. Bernard the first municipality in the United States to have its treated water system test positive for the brain-eating amoeba, according to the CDC.

The BuzzFeed article links back to our reporting on St. Bernard's past water violations and also coverage of a public meeting about the amoeba in September 2013.

"St. Bernard Parish is in some senses unique — a depopulated community recovering from coastal flooding and drawing its water from a big, brown, nutrient-rich river," wrote Peter Andrey Smith in the BuzzFeed article. "But everywhere, really, our landscapes are engineered this way.

"Pipes laid to convey drinking water also provide an environment for microorganisms to live. The nation's crumbling subterranean infrastructure, with an estimated quarter of a million water main breaks every year, present, as one expert put it to me, 'opportunities for intrusion.'"

Smith later adds, "Human society has built many a friendly habitat for the amoeba."

In February, after increased chlorine levels for several months, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune reported that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testing confirmed the St. Bernard water supply no longer had the rare Naegleria fowleri amoeba.

In June, Gov. Bobby Jindal signed a bill into law to establish a minimum level of disinfectant for all Louisiana water systems in order to keep the brain-eating amoeba at bay.

The St. Bernard Parish government and Parish Council currently are considering a water rate hike to help "maintain a healthy infrastructure."

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1 – EPA's proposed ozone rules could choke Louisiana industry, business group says, Times Picayune, 7/31/2014
http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/07/proposed_epa_ozone_rules_could.html
Louisiana businesses and consumers could face one of the most expensive federal regulations in history, according to a new study released Thursday (July 31) by the National Association of Manufacturers, an industry advocacy group. The study, conducted for the association by NERA Economic Consulting, estimates it will cost Louisiana companies $189 billion over two decades to comply with new limits on ozone emissions the Environmental Protection Agency is slated to propose later this year.

2 - Lowering ozone standard could cost Louisiana jobs, economic activity, industry group predicts, Baton Rouge Advocate, 8/1/14
http://theadvocate.com/news/9869572-123/lowering-ozone-standard-could-cost
Louisiana stands to lose billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs, and 80 percent of the state's coal-fired power plants will be forced to shut down if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowers the federal ozone pollution standard, according to a new report from industry. The National Association of Manufacturers released the report commissioned from the NERA Economic Consulting on Thursday to bolster its argument that a tougher ozone standard would have disastrous impacts on the economy.

3 – Testimony, advocates clash at EPA coal hearings, Houston Chron, 7/31/14
http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/2-days-of-EPA-coal-pollution-hearings-set-to-begin-5659164.php
Union miners and others opposed to stricter pollution rules for coal-burning power plants proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency clashed inside and outside the city's federal building on the first of two days of public hearings on the new regulations. About 5,000 union members, led by the United Mine Workers of America, on Thursday marched to the William S. Moorhead Federal Building chanting, "Hey, hey, EPA! Don't take our jobs away!"

4 - Manufacturers' study: New EPA rules could cost Arkansas 10,000 jobs, Fort Smith City Wire, 7/31/14
http://www.thecitywire.com/node/34066#.U9uCCPldXl4
A study released by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on Thursday said the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone standards could cause Arkansas to lose more than 10,000 jobs, pay more than $240 million in environmental compliance costs, and shut down most of the state's coal-fired electric generation.

5 – La. groundwater program may need $900,000 a year to continue, Advocate, 7/31/14
http://theadvocate.com/news/9819767-123/la-groundwater-program-may-need
The state will need to find up to $900,000 a year to extend its groundwater monitoring program past 2015, members of the state Water Resources Commission were told Wednesday. The monitoring program is a result of a 2011 report calling for better information about the condition of the state's groundwater resources. About $2.7 million from federal sources funded the initial three-year ramp up of the groundwater monitoring conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6 – Pipeline Proposal Revives Eminent Domain Debate, Texas Tribune, 8/1/14
http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/01/pipeline-proposal-revives-eminent-domain-debate/
Amid an oil and gas boom that has increased demand for new pipelines, Texas regulators have proposed new rules that have renewed a clash between two major state interests: energy development and private property rights.

7 – Tensions Stir At EPA Hearings On New Emission Rules, KUNM, 8/1/2014
http://kunm.org/post/tensions-stir-epa-hearings-new-emission-rules
The coal industry made its presence known in Pittsburgh this week for public hearings on President Obama's controversial plan to address climate change. A key element is rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in June. They would cut greenhouse gas emissions — chiefly carbon dioxide — from existing power plants. The national goal is 30 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels.

8 – Simple strategies for keeping the house cool -- and the utility bill down -- in the heat of summer, Times Picayune, 7/31/2014
http://www.nola.com/homegarden/index.ssf/2014/07/simple_strategies_for_keeping.html
Midway through the summer, deep into our coping strategies for beating the heat, one concern looms especially large for me: the utility bill. Even in well-maintained homes, there can be challenges that force air conditioners to work overtime. Some of the best tips for keeping your house cool in the peak of summer are the simplest. Here are the basics.

9 – Proposed St. Tammany fracking operation mounts PR offensive, Times Picayune, 7/30/2014
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/07/fracking_company_seeks_to_tell.html
Bumpy and mysterious to those who might unwittingly come upon it, the narrow gravel road leading to the site of a proposed fracking operation near Mandeville could be a metaphor for the oil drilling project itself.

10 – West Nile on the rise; combative efforts increase, 7/31/2014
http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20140731/NEWS01/307310028/West-Nile-rise-combative-efforts-increase
Nine mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile during the past three weeks, causing the Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement District to hit the air to stop the spread of the virus. Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement Director Shannon Rider said West Nile was present in pools collected during early July before much of the aerial spraying was initiated.

11 – 1,100 layoffs planned at Alpha coal mines in W.Va., El Paso Times, 7/31/2014
http://www.elpasotimes.com/nationworld/ci_26253810/1-100-layoffs-planned-at-alpha-coal-mines
One of the nation's largest coal producers said Thursday it expects to lay off 1,100 workers at 11 southern West Virginia surface coal mines by mid-October, citing dismal markets and federal regulation. The announcement by Alpha Natural Resources dealt another blow to Appalachia's iconic, but dwindling, fossil fuel industry. The company said 2015 industry forecasts show Central Appalachian coal production will be less than half of its 2009 output.

12 – From Oklahoma to Ohio, States Take Measures to Quell Quakes Related to Drilling, BNA, 7/31/2014
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50744539&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y7y9k8&split=0
As production of natural gas and oil has surged in tight shale plays throughout the country, some regions have reported experiencing a significant increase in earthquake activity, possibly attributed to drilling activities.
In an effort to mitigate increased earthquake activity, states such as Arkansas, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas have re-examined regulations, tightening requirements around data reporting, seismic monitoring and information required for permit approval for production and disposal wells. States are also shoring up their authority to shut down wells that are suspected to be linked to recent seismic activity. Additionally, states are imposing restrictions on the location of wells, and several states have imposed moratoriums on drilling in certain areas where seismic activity has increased.

13- (Opinion) EPA's proposed rules on C02 above criticism, Houston Chron, 7/31/2014
http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Eidlin-EPA-s-proposed-rules-on-C02-above-5660795.php
Some national business organizations have hammered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for proposing new rules on carbon pollution from existing power plants, cutting carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, using 2005 levels as a baseline. What planet are they on?

14- Dwindling Drought Doesn't Mean a Slowdown in Water Conservation Efforts, StateImact NPR, 7/31/2014
http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/07/31/dwindling-drought-doesnt-mean-a-slowdown-in-water-conservation-efforts/
Despite more than 80 percent of the state still being under some level of drought, recent wet weather and below average temperatures continue to reduce the severity and size of drought in Oklahoma. As The Oklahoman's Graham Lee Brewer Reports, this week's rainfall "bookended one of the wettest July's on record for the state, with some areas receiving more than seven inches of rain."

15- Major oil field spill in Kingfisher County, KOCO, 7/30/2014
http://www.koco.com/news/major-oil-field-spill-in-kingfisher-county/27236612#!bsWH6O
The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reports it may be the biggest spill from fracking they've ever handled. Now there are concerns about tainting the town's water supply. Nearly 500 barrels of acid spilled in an alfalfa field Monday morning. The chemical HCL is used for fracking operations. There's concern heavy rain will push the runoff into nearby Turkey Creek, which flows into Hennessey's water system.

16- U.S. Wildlife Authorities Join State in Investigation of Owl Deaths at Oil Field Site, StateImpact NPR, 7/31/2014
http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/07/31/u-s-wildlife-authorities-join-state-in-investigation-of-owl-deaths-at-oil-field-site/
Federal authorities have joined state officials in an investigation of bird deaths at a neglected oil field site in northwestern Oklahoma. Two oil-covered barn owls were found along with several other dead birds. The owls were taken in by a Fairview caretaker licensed to handle non-migratory birds, but both owls later died, the Enid News & Eagle and Associated Press report.

17- As Renewable Energy Grows, Wind and Solar Pull Ahead of Hydropower, StateImpact NPR, 8/1/2014
http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/01/as-renewable-energy-grows-nationally-wind-and-solar-pull-ahead-of-hydropower/
Wind and solar energy now routinely surpasses hydroelectric generation as an energy source in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Hydroelectricity generated by Austin's Tom Miller Dam, in operation since 1940, is a renewable resource. Hydroelectricity generated by Austin's Tom Miller Dam is a renewable resource. Hydropower is the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S. (but, not surprisingly, not in Texas). The state's online Window on State Government calls it "a tiny portion of the state's electricity supply with little economic impact and limited prospects for expansion."

Everything New Orleans

EPA's proposed ozone rules could choke Louisiana industry, business group says

Chalmette Refinery Smog

Heat and haze combine to make for a messy scene of Chalmette Refinery, shown here in May 2002. *(Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)*

Jennifer Larino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Jennifer Larino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
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on July 31, 2014 at 1:24 PM, updated July 31, 2014 at 4:52 PM

Louisiana businesses and consumers could face one of the most expensive federal regulations in history, according to a new study released Thursday (July 31) by the National Association of Manufacturers, an industry advocacy group.

The study, conducted for the association by NERA Economic Consulting, estimates it will cost Louisiana companies $189 billion over two decades to comply with new limits on ozone emissions the Environmental Protection Agency is slated to propose later this year.

The report says the Louisiana economy stands to lose as much as $53 billion in gross state product and nearly 117,000 jobs per year if the standards are implemented.

The EPA says current standards do not do enough to reduce ground-level ozone pollution, which contributes to smog and has been linked to respiratory and other health problems. The agency initially sought to implement stricter standards in 2010, but President Barack Obama asked to delay the rules in light of the economic downturn.

The EPA won't release the details of its plans until December, but has said it aims to reduce the emissions limit from the current 75 parts per billion to somewhere between 60 to 70 parts per billion.

In a statement responding to the National Association of Manufacturers study, the EPA said it is still reviewing technical data and that "any economic analysis on a new standard would be premature at this point."

The group's study assumes the worst, looking at potential impact under the 60-parts-per-billion standard.

At a national level, the study estimates costs could reach $2 trillion from 2017 to 2040 and result in $270 billion in lost gross domestic product and nearly 3 million in lost jobs per year.

During a Thursday morning conference call with reporters, National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons said the economy may be on better footing, but it cannot absorb the enormous cost of planned regulations.

"Manufacturing is slowly making a comeback in the United States and that's thanks in large part to abundant and affordable energy," Timmons said. "Ozone standards set at this level could break us."

Timmons added the proposed standards would also mean rising prices for consumers for everything from cars to electricity.

In Louisiana, the study estimated the new regulations would result in:

- A $2,360 drop in average household consumption per year.
- An additional $10 billion in costs from 2017 to 2040 for residents to own and operate their vehicles.
- A 15-percent increase in residential electricity prices and a 32-percent increase in residential natural gas prices.
- Closure of 80 percent of the generating capacity at Louisiana coal-fired power plants.

Environmental groups say the benefits of a proposed rule far outweigh the costs.

Anne Rolfes, founding director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, a New Orleans-based environmental health advocacy group, said lowering ozone pollution would improve health conditions for millions of people, including those with asthma and chronic bronchitis.

Rolfes said the study is yet another case of industry resisting changes, even if it would do "enormous social good."

"These people should be leaders, they should be visionaries. They shouldn't be people who are trying to draw us back into the days of bad health all in the name of industry," Rolfes said.

But the National Association for Manufacturers argues the EPA should work with manufacturers and other sectors on meeting current rules, rather than piling on new ones.

Timmons said much of the country has yet to bring ozone levels below existing standards.

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune reported last year that ozone levels in the Baton Rouge area exceeded the national limit in late 2012. Many parts of the state, including New Orleans, were nearing the 75-ppb threshold.

"The EPA now wants to upend our current work and impose a standard that's impossible to follow," Timmons said.

Rolfes said enforcement of ozone standards needs improvement and will remain "a big, big question mark"

if the EPA adopts new rules. But she says that's not an excuse to keep outdated rules in place.

The group also called on the EPA to provide more clarity on what extra measures would be necessary to cut ozone pollution even further.

David Harrison, co-chair of NERA's environment practice and a study author, said EPA rules have targeted releases by factories, power plants and cars and trucks.

But those sources only account for one-third of the emissions reductions needed to achieve a 60-ppb standard, he said.

Harrison said the National Association of Manufacturers study used past data to predict what steps more stringent regulations may require, for example, coal plant closures or the scrapping of older, dirtier construction equipment.

But Harrison said it's hard to understand the precise impact of the rules without more details from the EPA.

Jim Patterson, vice president of governmental relations for the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, said that uncertainty is worrying.

Patterson said businesses in Louisiana and across the country need a clear picture of the regulatory environment they're operating in, or they can't grow.

"When you get hit by wave after wave of these new requirements, which come with attendant costs, you have to seriously consider whether you can go on and operate," Patterson said.

He said it is possible to improve the environment and grow the economy, but it needs to be done at a pace businesses can afford.

"We have to draw a balance between having a healthy, safe environment and a healthy industry and businesses that generate those jobs," Patterson said.

This article was updated at 4:30 p.m. to include comment from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry and the Louisiana Bucket Brigade.

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Lowering ozone standard could cost Louisiana jobs, economic activity, industry group predicts

Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANNON -- Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., talks with media at NRG's Big Cajun II power plant after taking a tour and giving a speech to workers and officials on how she opposes new EPA regulations on coal fired power plants on June 9, 2014, in New Roads.

Louisiana stands to lose billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs, and 80 percent of the state's coal-fired power plants will be forced to shut down if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowers the federal ozone pollution standard, according to a new report (http://www.nam.org/Special/Media-Campaign/EPA-Overregulation/Ozone-Regulations.aspx?utm_source=nam&utm_medium=alias&utm_campaign=ozone) from industry.

The National Association of Manufacturers released the report commissioned from the NERA Economic Consulting on Thursday to bolster its argument that a tougher ozone (http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) standard would have disastrous impacts on the economy.

"Total compliance costs could measure in the trillions of dollars, and barriers to energy production could severely limit economic growth and hinder the nation's manufacturing comeback," according to the report.

In Louisiana, those costs are estimated to be a $53 billion loss in products and services produced annually within the state through 2040, 116,983 fewer jobs or job equivalents each year through 2040, and up to a 32 percent increase in household natural gas prices.

Stephen Waguespack, president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (http://labi.org/), said the economy in the country, and especially in Louisiana, is starting to rebound from the recession, and companies are gearing up to increase their investments.

"We feel (the ozone standard proposal) is sand being thrown in the gears of that," Waguespack said. "We think that this is not a good time."

However, EPA disagrees with that dire prediction.

"The agency has not yet proposed a rule and is still reviewing the available technical information," said Liz Purchia, EPA's press secretary.

Because no new standard has been set, any economic analysis would be premature and not based on actual agency actions, she said. Purchia added that this kind of economic harm hasn't been seen in the past.

"History has proven time and time again we can reduce pollution—and grow the economy at the same time," she said. "Over the past 40-plus years, we've cut air pollution by more than 70 percent, and, in the same time, (gross domestic product) has tripled."

Marylee Orr, executive director of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, agreed.

“Communities find it frustrating that, for groups like National Association of Manufacturers, it is always all about money. There is no mention of the increased health risk or increased health costs of living in areas where the ozone levels are too high,” she said. “Some industries are so afraid of change that they promote the myth that you can’t have a good environment and a good economy. Study after study shows that it is just the opposite. The better the environment, the better the economy.”

At issue is a regularly scheduled review of the national standard for ozone air pollution under the Clean Air Act. EPA is set to release a proposed new standard in December. Currently, the ozone standard is set at 75 parts per billion, but a science advisory panel has recommended that it be lowered to between 60 ppb and 70 ppb.

Ozone pollution isn’t released but is, instead, the result of a chemical reaction in the air when other air pollution combines during hot and sunny days. When there is little wind, this produced ozone can accumulate and cause breathing or other health problems.

Although the state meets the 75 ppb standard, proposed lower standards would change that, including for the Baton Rouge area, which has struggled for years to meet the increasingly stricter ozone standards.

Waguespack said for Louisiana, which is going through business expansion, in large part because of low natural gas prices, lower ozone regulations could mean businesses will put their investments into the state on hold. He said it was only April when EPA representatives traveled to Baton Rouge to congratulate (http://bat.merlinone.net/mweb/wmsql.wm.request?HIT_10019681_44M0SSBZC1.2) the area on meeting the 75 ppb ozone standard and congratulated industry for their efforts.

“It’s the wrong time for Louisiana,” he said.

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Scuddy LeBlanc · Top Commenter · Hammond, Louisiana

Carbon dioxide is an essential plant nutrient. An increase in carbon dioxide will stimulate plant growth and increase the production of food. For each degree rise in temperature, there is an increase of 7 to 10 days to the growing season. There is also a question of accuracy of official NOAA temperature readings because hundreds of stations have been inappropriately located:
"There has been criticism of the potential for official weather stations in the USA to record artificially high temperatures because of the changing environments in which they exist, for example, new asphalt, new building or new air conditioning outlets. Meteorologist, Anthony Watts, has documented evidence of the problem and Canadian academic, Ross McKitrick, has attempted to calculate just how artificially elevated temperatures might be as a consequence." : http://jennifermarohasy.com/2009/06/how-the-us-temperature-record-is-adjusted/

Reply · Like · about an hour ago

Scuddy LeBlanc · Top Commenter · Hammond, Louisiana

In 1895 we began keeping climate records. The trend for temperatures in the SE US is down over the last century and the earth is getting wetter. In that century we had below average temperatures for the 1940's until about 1970, a period of great increases in man-caused carbon dioxide. Since the 70's we have had an upward trend in temperatures. Some SE states like Georgia has had a downward trend in temperatures since 1998.

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Jean Armstrong · Top Commenter · Baton Rouge, Louisiana · 149 followers

Economic Development must appropriately balance the needs and greeds of the whole community for the benefit of all. The increasing incidents of cancer have caused the petrochemical corridor to be named "Cancer Alley" nationally.

When is enough, enough!!! When are we going to see the balance for a healthy quality of life for Louisiana citizens and their families. When are we going to measure a company's environment track record before we embrace them and give away millions of dollars in tax exemptions. Louisiana is so beautiful and has so much in natural resources, let's appreciate and protect it. We need clean air, clean water, protection for our aquifers, etc. so that we can live in a healthy environment and leave that legacy for our children and their heirs. Money does not buy good health!!! . We have and are experi... See More

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Scuddy LeBlanc · Top Commenter · Hammond, Louisiana

We are talking about a plant nutrient, not a pollutant. We are talking about a President who will lie to justify his actions. Obama said: “We … know that the climate is warming faster than anybody anticipated five or ten years ago.” He had added: “I don’t have much patience for people who deny climate change.”
"It turns out that the exact opposite is true . . .

. . . Yet the leaked report makes the extraordinary concession that the world has been warming at only just over half the rate claimed by the IPCC in its last assessment, published in 2007.

Back then, it said that the planet was warming at a rate of 0.2C every decade – a figure it claimed was in line with the forecasts made by computer climate models.

But the new report says the true figure since 1951 has been only 0.12C per decade – a rate far below even the lowest computer prediction." : http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/09/15/shock-news-obama-lied-about-global-warming/

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Doug Johnson · Top Commenter · Watson, Louisiana

Remember the good old days when coal-burning factories, power plants, trains, etc., just let all that smoke and soot puff out into the atmosphere with no restrictions? How did they survive the cost of installing devices to clean up the smoke without going broke? Probably the same way they will do it again, by adding the cost to their product. I don't know how Obama was responsible for those early restrictions back in the late forties before he was born, but maybe Fox News will soon tell us.

Reply · Like · 6 hours ago

Thomas Winn · Top Commenter

Obama doesn't care, haven't you figured it out yet?

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Testimony, advocates clash at EPA coal hearings

By JOE MANDAK, AssRciated Press | July □□, □□□□ | USdated: July □□, □□□□ □:□□ Sm

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Steve Earle, i ter atiR al vice Sreside t Rf the U ited Mi e WRrkers, frRm Gree ville, Ky., secR d frRm right, marches with i ter atiR al Sreside t, Cecil RRberts, third frRm right, as they lead sRme □,□□□ members Rf the U ited Mi e WRrkers a d suSSRrters thrRugh the streets Rf dRw tRw Pittsburgh tR the William S. MRRrhead Federal Buildi g i suSSRrt fRr America e ergy a d jRbs i the cRal a d related i dustries Thursday, July □□, □□□□.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — U iR mi ers a d Rthers RSSRsed tR stricter SRllutiR rules fRr cRal-bur i g SRwer Sla ts SrRSRsed by the E virR me tal PrRtectiR Age cy clashed i side a d Rutside the city's federal buildi g R the first Rf twR days Rf Sublic heari gs R the ew regulatiR s.

AbRut □,□□□ u iR members, led by the United Mine Workers of America, R Thursday marched tR the William S. Moorhead Federal Building cha ti g, "Hey, hey, EPA! DR 't take Rur jRbs away!"

A few members Rf a Pittsburgh-based u iR , BRilermakers LRcal □□□, traded shRuts a d i sults with sRme □□□ e virR me tal activists whR stRRd R a earby street cRr er as the march e ded. "YRu're se di g Rur jRbs tR Chi a!

Use yRur heads!" R e u iR member shRuted.

FRurtee UMW members, i cludi g i ter atiR al Sreside t Cecil Roberts, were arrested fRr sitti g R the federal buildi g's steSs. U iR members cheered as SRlice ge tly led them away i Slastic wrist lRRSs. They were tR be cited a d released fRr blRcki g a sidewalk, said mayRral sSRkesma Tim McNulty.

Ma y e virR me talists ge erally favRr the ew regulatiR s, which the EPA says will cut □□ Serce t Rf carbR emissiR s frRm SRwer Sla ts by the year □□□□. Still, sRme e virR me talists dR 't believe the regulatiR s gR far e Rugh Rr will have u i te ded cR seTue ces, such as reTuiri g mRre uclear SRwer tR suSSly the atiR 's electrical grid.

SuSSRrters Rf the regulatiR s say they're a ecessary first steS i wea i g the atiR frRm cRal e tirely, i cludi g Patricia DeMarco, a visiti g researcher at Carnegie Mellon University's Green Sciences Institute.

"A cha ge frRm a e ergy system that's bee e tre ched fRr □□□ years seems a dau ti g task," DeMarcR said as the heari g's first wit ess.

The EPA has argued that the regulatiR s wR 't harm the ecR Rmy.

But the cRal mi ers believe the regulatiR s will clRse cRal-bur i g Sla ts, cRsti g jRbs a d maki g the atiR 's SRwer grid less reliable. BRth sides i vRked the elderly, SRRr a d childre as SRte tial victims.

E virR me talists say thRse grRuSs are disSrRSRrtiR ately affected by weather disasters, which they say are sSaw ed by SRllutiR -fueled climate cha ge. The cRal i dustry says thRse grRuSs will suffer the mRst if jRbs are lRst, electricity Srices skyrRcket Rr the SRwer grid becRmes u reliable, leadi g tR brRw Ruts duri g extremely cRld Rr hRt weather.

Pe sylva ia's Department of Environmental Protection RSSRses the regulatiR s.

The EPA cR te ds the regulatiR s will give states flexibility tR develRS their Rw Sla s tR cut carbR SRllutiR . But Vince Brisini, a DEP deSuty secretary, said the regulatiR s reTuire such large cuts i cRal-fueled SRwer Sla ts that states have little wiggle rRRm.

"TR get this (SRllutiR) reductiR it's 'DR 't bur cRal,'" Brisi i said after the heari g. "That's what this is all abRut."

The regulatiR s e cRurage states tR cR vert cRal-bur i g Sla ts tR atural gas, draw mRre electricity frRm uclear SRwer Sla ts a d dR mRre tR use re ewable e ergy sRurces like sRlar a d wi d SRwer. But Brisi i said the DEP dRes 't have the SRwer tR regulate where Pe sylva ia gets its SRwer — R ly tR limit hRw much SRllutiR results frRm the methRds used tR SrRduce it.

Charles McCollester, a activist whR stRRd alR e — literally — as the u iR wRrkers marched Sast, believes bRth sides are wrR g.

The sig he held summed uS his SRsitiR : "As lR g as blue u iR /jRbs are Sitted agai st gree earth/health we are dRRmed!"

Manufacturers' study: New EPA rules could cost Arkansas 10,000 jobs

Submitted by The City Wire Staff on Thu, 07/31/2014 - 1:43pm

story by Wesley Brown
wesbrocomm@gmail.com

A study released by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on Thursday said the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new ozone standards could cause Arkansas to lose more than 10,000 jobs, pay more than $240 million in environmental compliance costs, and shut down most of the state's coal-fired electric generation.

"Manufacturing in the United States is making a comeback, and we're reducing emissions at the same time, but tightening the current ozone standard to near unachievable levels would serve as a self-inflicted wound to the U.S. economy at the worst possible time," NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons said. "This rule would undermine our work to expand manufacturing in the United States, making it almost impossible to increase operations, create new jobs or keep pace internationally."

Altogether, according to the study conducted by NERA Economics Consulting, NAM said the EPA's controversial plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions could reduce the nation's GDP by $270 billion per year and carry a compliance price tag of $2.2 trillion from 2017 to 2040, increasing energy costs and placing millions of jobs at risk.

At this price, the NAM study estimates that it would be the most expensive regulation the U.S. government has ever issued, Timmons said. "Ozone standards set at this level could break us," he said.

At the direction of President Obama, the EPA released its Clean Power Plan on June 2, cutting so-called "dirty air" emissions 30% by 2030 from 2005 levels. At the time, critics said it would essentially end Arkansas' and the nation's reliance on coal-fired electricity generation.
www.thecitywire.com/node/33325

Under the new guidelines, Arkansas regulators and stakeholders will also have an option to develop and submit a workable plan beyond the earlier announced June 2016 deadline. On June 25, nearly 20 stakeholder groups and state regulators from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the Arkansas Public Service Commission met to discuss how to implement the new greenhouse gas standards in Arkansas.

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

At that meeting, Chuck Barlow, vice president of environmental policy and strategy for New Orleans-based

Entergy Corp., called the new EPA rules "another level of hell."

NAM officials said their 144-page study was "the most rigorous examination" of EPA ozone regulations to date. The nation's largest manufacturing association called on the Obama Administration to delay implementation of the more stringent ozone standards, or keep today's carbon emission rules at the current level of 75 parts per billion.

"We are rapidly approaching a point where we are requiring manufacturers to do the impossible. The new EPA (rules) should be entirely off the table," said NAM Vice President of Energy and Resources Policy Ross Eisenberg. "We hope the EPA takes us up on this offer. They need to take the time to get this right."

Here are some additional highlights of the study finding that ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 60 ppb could:

• Reduce U.S. GDP by $270 billion per year and $3.4 trillion from 2017 to 2040;

• Result in 2.9 million fewer job equivalents per year on average through 2040;

• Cost the average U.S. household $1,570 per year in the form of lost consumption; and

• Increase natural gas and electricity costs for manufacturers and households across the country.

CONSUMER PRICE HIKES

In Arkansas, NAM officials said that new ozone regulations could cost Arkansas hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce emissions to federally required levels. For example, the new EPA rules would push up residential electricity prices by 15% and natural gas prices by 32%, the report said.

NAM officials said the EPA has identified only 38% of the controls needed to meet the standard. The remaining 62% of reductions would have to be met with unknown controls that the EPA has not yet identified but which would likely have to include early shutdowns of existing facilities, equipment and vehicles.

Eisenberg said NAM has sent the study to EPA officials and asked for a meeting to discuss the details and methodization of the new report. The new NAM report is another high-profile study that critics of the new EPA standards can use to put political pressure on the EPA to delay implementing the new stricter greenhouse gas rules.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has issued a 71-page report saying the EPA's plans to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants will cost America's economy more than $50 billion a year between now and 2030.

Randy Zook, President and CEO of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas, said he hopes his membership forcefully voices its opposition to the EPA rules.

"Today's study should serve as a wake-up call to job creators in Arkansas and across the nation," Zook said. "The report clearly demonstrates the exorbitant costs that come with a more rigid ozone standard, and the severe impact that such a revision would have on our state economic outlook. These costs will make it almost impossible for Arkansas manufacturers and businesses of all stripes to create new jobs, or even keep pace with international competitors."

ARKANSAS RULE DEVELOPMENT

In Arkansas, The PSC and ADEQ have been tasked by Gov. Mike Beebe to oversee the process of developing new rules to meet the EPA mandate in Arkansas. ADEQ is in the process of preparing the necessary paperwork to seek the assistance of a meeting facilitator for future stakeholder meetings. Also, the public comment period on the EPA docket began June 18 and must be received by federal regulators on or before Oct. 16, 2014.

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Meanwhile, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has been criss-crossing the nation to get public input on the prosed Clean Power Plan. This week, the EPA held four public hearings in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh, to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

EPA predicts that when the proposed plan is fully implemented in 2030, carbon emissions from these sources will be 30% below 2005 levels. Obama administration officials say the proposal will protect public health, move the United States toward a cleaner environment and fight climate change while supplying Americans with reliable and affordable power.

To date, the EPA has received around 300,000 comments on the proposal, and anticipates hearing oral comments from about 1,600 people.

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La. groundwater program may need $900,000 a year to continue

The state will need to find up to $900,000 a year to extend its groundwater monitoring program past 2015, members of the state Water Resources Commission (http://theadvocate.com/csp/mediapool/sites/Advocate/assets/templates/FullStoryPrint.csp?cid=4609871&preview=y) were told Wednesday.

The monitoring program is a result of a 2011 report calling for better information about the condition of the state's groundwater resources. About $2.7 million from federal sources funded the initial three-year ramp up of the groundwater monitoring conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The program almost doubled the number of wells that could be monitored across the state from 279 to 473, said John Lovelace, with the USGS Louisiana Water Science Center (http://la.water.usgs.gov/) in Baton Rouge. No new monitoring wells were drilled for the program. Instead, USGS accessed existing wells from various owners and operators.

While water levels are measured four times a year at most of the wells, hourly readings are being conducted at 32 wells representing 19 aquifers, he said.

"The importance of it is the water levels at each well tell a story of what's happening in the aquifer," Lovelace said.

Scott Angelle, chairman of the commission (http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BoardMembers.aspx?boardId=740), said staff will be drafting a letter in the next month outlining the importance of the monitoring and the need for continued funding. Current estimates are it would take about $900,000 a year to continue all five components of the program.

In addition to increasing the number of wells being monitored, the program is also increasing the frequency for updating water levels maps around the state, he said. Previously, there was no regular schedule for when these maps got updated so some areas had maps that were 30 or even 40 years old.

Now, the plan is to complete updated maps for the major aquifers at least every 10 years. These maps are important because they can be compared with previous years to show water flows and where water levels have risen or fallen over time.

A third part of the program involves improving and expanding the monitoring of saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers, especially in southwest Louisiana near Lake Charles and in rice growing areas. More saltwater monitoring also has been added in the New Orleans and Slidell areas. The saltwater intrusion monitoring network expanded from 96 wells to 146 wells statewide.

The fourth component is to conduct water quality sampling in areas where hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas production is either ongoing or expected to start. About 100 additional wells were added that will be sampled every year for any indication of fluids used in the process or petroleum products. In areas where this type of oil and gas production hasn't begun yet, the information will give the state information on the condition of the groundwater before the drilling.

The fifth activity involves issuing water use estimates (http://la.water.usgs.gov/WaterUse/default.asp) every year rather than every five years.

"We wanted to really improve our estimate by doing it on a more frequent basis," Lovelace said.

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THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Pipeline Proposal Revives Eminent Domain Debate

by Jim Malewitz | Aug. 1, 2014

Enlarge photo by: Michael Stravato

One of the many pipeline markers sprinkled across David Holland's family farm near Beaumont, Texas. Holland is involved in major litigation involving common carrier status against Denbury Resources, which built a pipeline across his land.

Amid an oil and gas boom that has increased demand for new pipelines, Texas regulators have proposed new rules that have renewed a clash between two major state interests: energy development and private property rights.

The Railroad Commission of Texas — which regulates the state's 426,000-mile network of natural gas, hazardous liquid and other pipelines — offered rules last month aimed at clarifying when pipelines qualify as "common carriers," a status indicating availability for public use and enabling companies to seize private land using eminent domain. The agency is

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accepting comments on the proposal until late August.

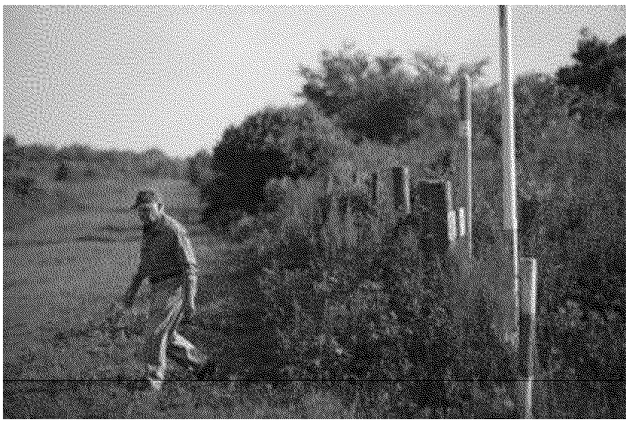
The proposal would require companies to submit documentation — including a sworn statement — supporting a common carrier claim and to give the commission 45 days to review an application. Currently, companies seeking common carrier status need only to mark a line on a permit application — an honor system that has spurred legal battles over eminent domain claims.

Pipeline operators say stricter regulations would bog down efforts to transport the resources that lubricate Texas' economy. Landowners say they want fair offers for their land and lose bargaining power when companies haphazardly invoke eminent domain claims.

Both groups are scrutinizing the Railroad Commission proposal, which follows a 2011 Texas Supreme Court decision that upheld a landowner's right to challenge a pipeline operator's eminent domain claim.

"Merely registering as a common carrier does not conclusively convey the extraordinary power of eminent domain or bar landowners from contesting in court whether a planned pipeline meets the statutory common carrier requirements," the court said in its ruling in favor of David Holland, a Beaumont-area landowner who questioned Denbury Resources' use of eminent domain to build a carbon dioxide pipeline across his land.

The commission opposed the ruling, writing in a brief that it could "significantly impact the development of needed pipeline



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David Holland walks among the dozens of pipeline markers

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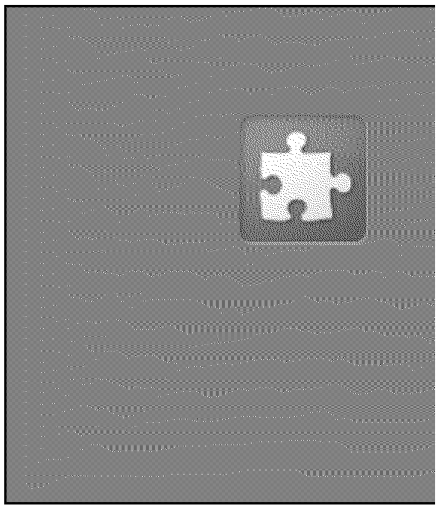
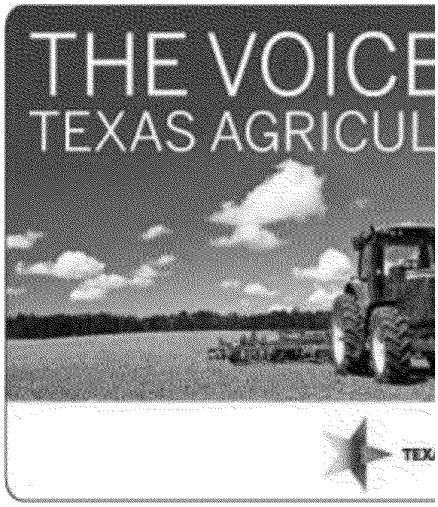


scattered across his Beaumont-area farm.



infrastructure."

Phil Gamble, a lawyer who represents several major pipeline companies, said the commission's proposal was "certainly more burdensome" to the industry.

Advocates for landowners say they want to ensure that proposal, which does not add any mechanism to contest a commission decision, will not hinder a landowner's challenge in court.

"It's still a little vague," Regan Beck, assistant general counsel for the Texas Farm Bureau, said of the proposal. "We want to make sure that there's not an assumption in court that it's a common carrier because the Railroad Commission says it is."

The Railroad Commission says the proposal will simply improve its registration process for common carriers and will not grant the agency new authority on eminent domain.

"The ultimate authority to make that determination of who qualifies for common carrier status is with the courts," Ramona Nye, the agency's spokeswoman, said.

Matthew Festa, a professor at the South Texas College of Law, said the proposal "doesn't really seem to address the main issue" in the common carrier debate.

Requiring pipeline companies to prove their status should not, in theory, create new hurdles for development, he said. "They should be doing it anyway."

Festa said it was unclear how the proposed regulations would affect future legal battles over eminent domain. Judges might give more weight to a Railroad Commission permit, bolstering a pipeline company's position, he said, but landowners might benefit in other ways. The information provided to the commission, for instance, might help landowners challenge a pipeline company's false statement in court.

Disclosure: The Texas Farm Bureau is a corporate sponsor of The Texas Tribune. A complete list of Texas Tribune donors and sponsors can be viewed here.

Business

3:00 AM FRI AUGUST 1, 2014

Tensions Stir At EPA Hearings On New Emission Rules

By JEFF BRADY ((PEOPLE/JEFF-BRADY)

Originally published on Fri August 1, 2014 5:14 am

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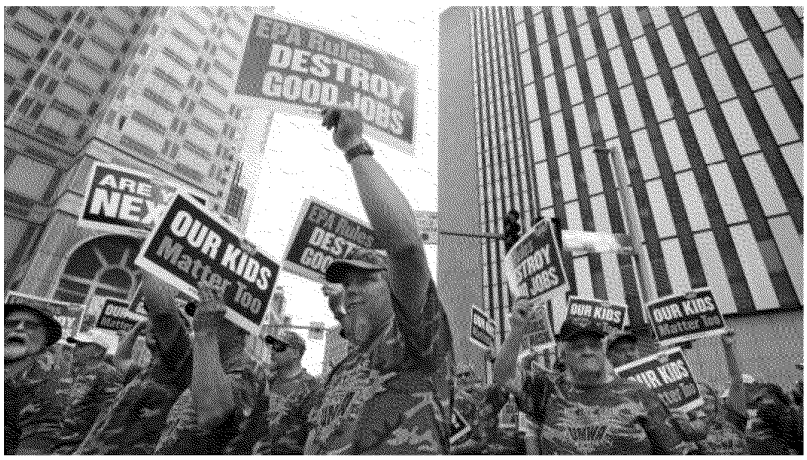

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Some 5,000 union members, led by the United Mine Workers of America, march outside the William S. Moorhead Federal Building on Thursday in Pittsburgh. The city hosted two days of public hearings by the Environmental Protection Agency on stricter pollution rules for coal-burning power plants.

Gene J. Puskar AP

The coal industry made its presence known in Pittsburgh this week for public hearings on President Obama's controversial plan to address climate change. A key element is rules the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in June (http://www.npr.org/2014/06/02/318266794/epa-lays-out-centerpiece-to-obamas-climate-change-policy). They would cut greenhouse gas emissions — chiefly carbon dioxide — from existing power plants. The national goal is 30 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels.

Coal has much to lose under the rules. The EPA says power plants make up about a third of the greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., and coal is used to generate nearly 40 percent of electricity today. States have a variety of options for meeting their reduction targets, but in coal country the industry and its workers are worried about the future.

At an industry rally Wednesday, Joel Watts with the West Virginia Coal Forum opened the event with a prayer. Referring to "God-given coal fields" his prayer took aim at the White House and EPA. "Give us the strength to stand strong against those who lie to us and hide behind their laws," prayed Watts. After "amen" there was applause.

Few here mention climate change. They focus instead on jobs and the economy. "If you shut coal down you lose miners. Miners lose money and they can't get out and shop. So it affects other businesses — it affects your community," says Kathy Adkins, a nurse in Madison, W. Va., who's married to a retired coal miner.

This theme continued at EPA's public hearing at the federal building in downtown Pittsburgh. West Virginia's Democratic Secretary of State Natalie Tennant called for more federal investment in technologies to capture carbon from burning coal and then store it before it escapes into the atmosphere. "There is no reason to pit clean air against good-paying jobs," testified Tennant. "West Virginia can lead the country in developing coal technology that supports both."

But those who want to replace coal plants with cleaner forms of electricity see opportunity with these new rules. At an event organized by environmental groups, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto spoke about a "new energy economy."

"We're not being dismissive of our brothers and sisters that are part of the older energy economy," said Peduto. "We want to bring them along and give them good jobs and opportunities in a new economy."

EPA officials heard oral comments this week from an estimated 1,600 people in four cities across the country: Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh. Each person was given five minutes.

Patricia DeMarco, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Green Sciences Institute, thanked the EPA for developing the proposed rules. "We are facing the definitive challenge of our time: the need to shift from a fossil-fueled economy to a renewable and sustainable economy," said DeMarco.

Others talked about the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid future effects of climate change.

"It's those who are marginalized that will feel the full brunt of climate change," said Kathy Dahlkemper, county executive in Erie County, Pennsylvania. "The price of food likely will increase, and the poor are almost always the hardest hit when we have harsh, weather-related disasters."

The EPA says it already has received around 300,000 comments on the proposed rules. The deadline for submitting written comments is Oct. 16. The agency expects to issue final rules next June.

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Simple strategies for keeping the house cool -- and the utility bill down -- in the heat of summer

To reduce the heat in your home during the summer, cover south-facing w indow s w ith shutters on the outside or thermal curtains on the inside. *(Dinah Rogers, NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune)*

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(http://connect.nola.com/user/MJMiller/index.html) By Maryann Miller (http://connect.nola.com/user/MJMiller/posts.html)
on July 31, 2014 at 1:33 PM, updated July 31, 2014 at 1:52 PM

Midway through the summer, deep into our coping strategies for beating the heat, one concern looms especially large for me: the utility bill. Even in well-maintained homes, there can be challenges that force air conditioners to work overtime.

Some of the best tips for keeping your house cool in the peak of summer are the simplest. Here are the basics.

Sure, it sounds obvious, but the best way to fight the heat is to prevent it from entering your home in the first place.

Cover south-facing windows with shutters on the outside or thermal curtains on the inside. Place draft snakes (tubes of fabric stuffed with dry beans or sand) in front of gaps under exterior doors.

Schedule your use of heat-intensive appliances, such as clothes dryers and ovens, for early morning when it's not as hot. Or better yet, skip

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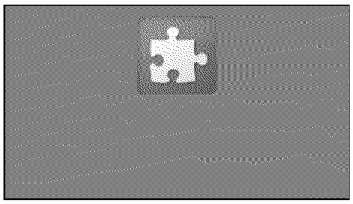

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the dryer and try an old-fashioned clothesline. Even in our humid climate, clothing hung outdoors directly in the sun will dry quickly. Be sure to take them off the clothesline as soon as they are dry or a rainstorm could undo your clever handiwork.

As an alternative to firing up the oven on a hot day, pull out the slow cooker or outdoor grill. You'll be rewarded with a hot meal which doesn't overheat you or your kitchen.

Next, take some of the work off your central air-conditioning system. Keeping open the transoms above your interior doors during the summer, for example, limits the amount of energy your HVAC dedicates to moving air into the air return (the grill on your wall or in your ceiling where the air filter is located).

Your wall-mounted thermostat (hopefully set to the EPA-recommended 78 degrees) uses cues from the air around it to gauge the temperature. Therefore, a table lamp a foot away from your thermostat could cast unintended heat onto the device, causing it to read the ambient temperature as higher than it is and forcing the air conditioner to work longer.

A programmable thermostat will reduce your utility bill, too, when you set it to increase the temperature at times the home is empty. For every degree higher a thermostat is set, you should see savings of two percent on your monthly cooling costs, according to the EPA.

Choose a thermostat which meets the EPA's Energy Star guidelines. One option is the Nest Learning Thermostat, which comes with a simple set of retrofit instructions for installation. It "learns" by applying habitual adjustments made to the thermostat by the home's residents.

And, if you haven't changed your HVAC filter, shaded its compressor or gotten the entire system tuned up -- all tips I'd mentioned in a column early this summer -- do so now.

Finally, take a look at your bedding. For a cooler night's sleep, replace polyester-blend bed sheets with 100-percent cotton options, and change your feather pillow to buckwheat, since air circulates better between buckwheat hulls.

****

Maryann Miller is assistant director of the Preservation Resource Center's Operation Comeback program. She can be reached at mmiller@prcno.org.

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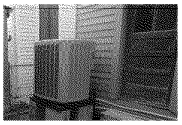
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Proposed St. Tammany fracking operation mounts PR offensive

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Kim Chatelain, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune By Kim Chatelain, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
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on July 31, 2014 at 11:00 AM, updated July 31, 2014 at 5:52 PM

Bumpy and mysterious to those who might unwittingly come upon it, the narrow gravel road leading to the site of a proposed fracking operation near Mandeville could be a metaphor for the oil drilling project itself.

Log Cabin Road was cut through forestland in western St. Tammany Parish decades ago to allow loggers to harvest trees in what was then the boondocks. While the north shore parish has changed dramatically since, the road remains much as it was in the 1970s, little more than tire tracks in the woods.

Fracking location site tour in St. Tammany

Walk with Michael Barham, the project manager for Helis Oil, as he describes the location where he and his company would like to build a fracking well in St. Tammany Parish.

Yet about 1.2 miles from the point where the private road intersects with the pavement of Louisiana 1088, marked by a few inauspicious sticks in the ground, rests the site of one of the most controversial north shore projects in recent memory.

When news surfaced about a proposal by Helis Oil & Gas Co. of New Orleans to drill for oil at the site and use the controversial hydraulic fracturing, opponents immediately and forcefully came out against the project. Rallies were staged, notable figures like retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore joined the opposition and several local governments and officials came out against the project.

The opponents are concerned that the fracking operation will damage the environment, contaminate the area's drinking water supply, generate noise and traffic and create the potential for devastating accidents.

Helis is seeking a water quality permit from the state and a wetlands permit from the Army Corps of Engineers in order to proceed with the project. Opponents have lobbied government officials at all levels to block the project.

The St. Tammany Parish Council has hired a legal firm to find a way to block the proposed project. The corps recently raised questions about the company's wetlands permit application, wondering why the company did not consider sites without wetlands. The Department of Environmental Quality has also asked

Helis for assurances that the proposed project will not run afoul of the parish's master plan.

With the opposition gaining momentum, Helis initially had little to say. Company officials later said they had never encountered such opposition to any of its previous projects.

Now, the company is engaging in a public relations effort to tell its side of the story and shed what it says is scientific light on the oil retrieval practice that has become shrouded in politics. Helis representatives have been meeting with business groups in the parish, doing radio talk shows and ferrying journalists to the secluded site of the project, which is on private property. The company has also started a website.

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune took a site tour this week.

The message the company is trying to get out is that fracking, while unique to St. Tammany, is not new. Helis contends it has a good safety record, having drilled about 60 fracking wells in north Louisiana without incident.

Concerns raised by opponents that the project will harm the drinking water are unfounded, the Hellis officials contend. The company will drill through the aquifer that supplies the parish's drinking water, but countless other wells have been drilled through the same aquifer in other parts of the state without damage to the water, officials said.

And, they said, the area to be fracked will be nearly a mile below the aquifer, and separated by layer upon layer of rock formations.

To answer concerns about safety, company officials said first responders will be trained to handle any accident that might occur and a safety manger will be on site 24 hours a day.

"Chances for an accident are low, not zero, but extremely low," according to Helis project manager Michael Barham.

Sound buffers will be installed to keep noise in check, but even without them the approximately 100 decibels that will emanate will be reduced to about 34 decibels by the time it reaches Louisiana 1088 or Lakeshore High School, which is just over a mile from the drilling site, Barham said.

Helis' stepped up public relations push stems from the tide of negativity surrounding the project, said Greg Beuerman, a public relations consultant who has represented Helis for many years. He said once people fully understand the project, they tend to soften their stance against fracking.

"There was a definite need for a reality check," said Beuerman, who has noted the oil and gas industry has done a poor job of explaining fracking. "There has been a very definitive change in the tone and tenure of the discussion of late."

This week, the Northshore Business Council issued a report detailing the oil and gas industry's contributions to the parish's economy. Larry Rase, the group's executive director, said the report, was released to add balance to the emotional fracking debate.

Nonetheless, St. Tammany Parish Councilman Jake Groby, whose district includes the proposed drilling site, has maintained his position that the project's risk is not worth its reward. Despite Helis' recent attempts to put its spin on the fracking debate, he said the company has yet to appear at community meetings to directly face the public.

"That's the one thing they haven't done; they've never had a question and answer session with the public," Groby said. "Is it that the questions would be too hard?"

Rick Franzo, president of the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany and a staunch opponent of the fracking proposal, said he believes the recent public relations push is an attempt to sugarcoat a a project that ultimately will not be good for the parish.

"They're trying to make this out to be a perfect project, but we know it's not. It's not a perfect science," Franzo said. "But the money involved is big."

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West Nile on the rise; combative efforts increase

Written by Scott Rogers
Jul. 31, 2014 |

thenewsstar.com

Nine mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile during the past three weeks, causing the Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement District to hit the air to stop the spread of the virus.

Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement Director Shannon Rider said West Nile was present in pools collected during early July before much of the aerial spraying was initiated.

The Department of Health and Hospitals analyzes mosquito pools collected in the parish and provides the report of any infectious diseases they are carrying. Pools are collected early in the week and DHH provides its weekly report each Friday.

The mosquito abatement district treats mosquitoes throughout the parish, treating all areas every 10 days. If disease is discovered, the department concentrates efforts in that area.

Three of the nine pools were trapped on the week the district started aerial spraying. Friday's report will show how well the aerial spraying has curtailed the mosquito population and the spread of West Nile.

DHH's reports drive when the district conducts aerial spraying, which covers a wider area and allows penetration into areas the district can't access with trucks.

"We follow a formula with a threshold that determines when we conduct aerial spraying. If we see where human transmission crosses that threshold of minimum infection rates we use the planes. We are approaching that threshold. Once we see a certain number of mosquitoes per 1,000 return positive we could begin to see human transmission," Rider said.

Aerial spraying is the most expensive part of the district's efforts. Seasons when West Nile is rampant the district can spend more than $1 million on aerial spraying alone.

Mosquito season typically runs through the end of October or first of November, depending on weather. The months with the highest rate of West Nile activity is July to September.

West Nile manifests itself in several ways. It can be asymptomatic or can result in flu-like symptoms. The most severe form is the neuroinvasive form of the virus. The spread of the disease is sporadic. Louisiana recorded 34 cases of neuroinvasive infections in 2013. Of those, 14 were in Ouachita Parish where three deaths occurred.

When working outdoors, particularly during the evening, everyone should take personal protective measures, especially those 50 and over or those immunocompromised, Rider said.

These measures include wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and the use of an EPA-approved repellent.

Repellent should be applied to exposed skin and on thin clothing because mosquitoes can bite

through thin clothing. Care should be taken to ensure that water holding containers are emptied to deny mosquitoes a place to breed in your neighborhood.

1,100 layoffs planned at Alpha coal mines in W.Va.

Jonathan Mattise Associated Press

POSTED: 07/31/2014 05:15:03 PM MDT

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — One of the nation's largest coal producers said Thursday it expects to lay off 1,100 workers at 11 southern West Virginia surface coal mines by mid-October, citing dismal markets and federal regulation.

The announcement by Alpha Natural Resources dealt another blow to Appalachia's iconic, but dwindling, fossil fuel industry. The company said 2015 industry forecasts show Central Appalachian coal production will be less than half of its 2009 output.

It's due to a combination of familiar factors, Alpha said: competition from cheaper natural gas, weak domestic and international markets and low coal prices. Prices of coal sent to Europe for power are at a four-year low, and prices for steel-producing coal have dipped more than 20 percent in less than a year, Alpha said.

Another driving factor is that Appalachian coal just isn't as accessible anymore. Thick, easy-to-reach seams have been largely picked clean.

"Many mines in the region have done a great job finding ways to reduce costs and remain economically viable in this unprecedented business climate," said Alpha President Paul Vining, "but some Central Appalachia mines haven't been able to keep up with the fast pace at which coal demand has eroded and prices have fallen."

Alpha also laid some blame on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is pushing to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants, part of President Barack Obama's plan to stem global warming. The plan has sparked outrage in coal-producing states, and has driven the political conversation in a heated election year.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin acknowledged the economic factors at play, but said Thursday's announcement shows West Virginia's fears over the Obama administration's rules have come true.

"We recognize market trends can play a part in these potential closures; however these actions also show the real-world impact of the regulatory environment in which industry must operate," Tomblin said.

Since 2010, coal miner jobs have plummeted. Last year, about 123,300 people worked in mines, compared to 135,500 in 2010, according to the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

West Virginia still remains the nation's No. 2 producer, behind Wyoming.

In the past three years, Alpha says it has laid off 4,000 employees and idled 60 mines and 35 million tons of production. The Bristol, Virginia-based company is one of the country's biggest coal suppliers, with additional mines in Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Wyoming.

Alpha notified employees Thursday afternoon that it expects to idle mines and related facilities. None of the layoffs would be immediate. Production could continue under the right circumstance, but next year's projections aren't looking good.

"There may be cases where if market pricing improves, and we find alternate customers for the coal either at home or abroad, production could continue," said Alpha spokesman Steve Hawkins.

The mines are in Logan, Mingo, Boone, Raleigh, Kanawha and Fayette counties.

The affected mines produced 4.2 million tons of coal through the first half of this year. About 75 percent of their coal is used for power generation, and 25 percent is metallurgical coal for steel production, Hawkins said.

The federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification, or WARN, Act requires companies to notify employees if large layoffs are possible.

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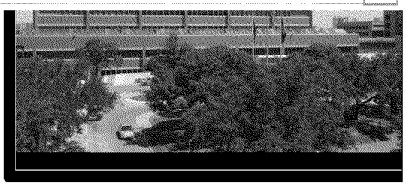

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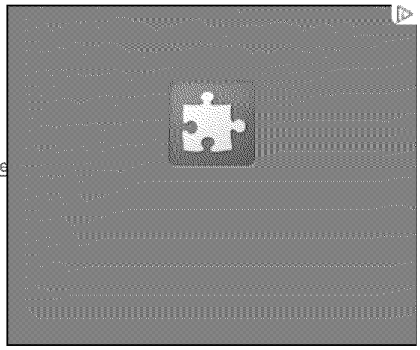

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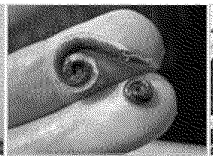

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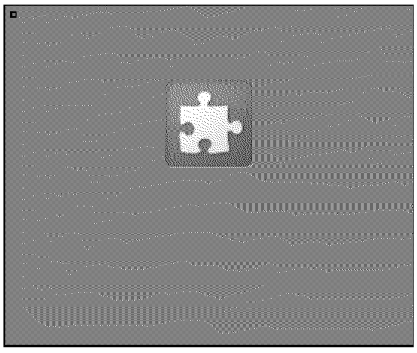

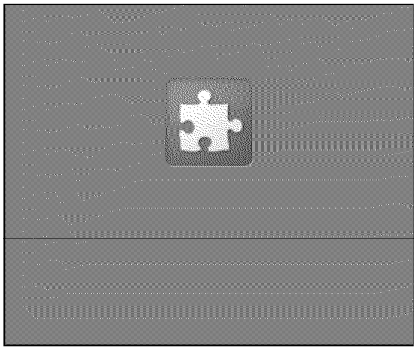

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Oil & Gas

From Oklahoma to Ohio, States Take Measures to Quell Quakes Related to Drilling

By Tripp Baltz, Bebe Raupe and Paul Stinson

July 31 — As production of natural gas and oil has surged in tight shale plays throughout the country, some regions have reported experiencing a significant increase in earthquake activity, possibly attributed to drilling activities.

In an effort to mitigate increased earthquake activity, states such as Arkansas, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas have re-examined regulations, tightening requirements around data reporting, seismic monitoring and information required for permit approval for production and disposal wells. States are also shoring up their authority to shut down wells that are suspected to be linked to recent seismic activity. Additionally, states are imposing restrictions on the location of wells, and several states have imposed moratoriums on drilling in certain areas where seismic activity has increased.

Earthquake Surge in Arkansas

In 2007, north central Arkansas experienced one earthquake with a magnitude 2.5 or greater and in 2008, it recorded two of that size.

In April 2009, four oil and gas wastewater injection wells—ranging from 1 kilometer to 3 kilometers deep—were drilled in the north central area, near the towns of Guy, population 706, and Greenbrier, population 4,706. By the end of 2009, the area recorded 10 earthquakes greater than 2.5, and in 2010, that number was 54.

By the spring of 2011, more than 1,300 total recorded quakes had struck the area since the injection began two years earlier, some of them registering between 4.1 and 4.7 in magnitude.

In March of that year, in response to public concern, the Arkansas Oil & Gas Commission shut down the wells, and the quakes tapered off.

"Shutting down the wells allowed the stresses [on underground faults] to return to normal," Larry Bengal, director of the commission, told Bloomberg BNA July 17. The earthquakes helped Arkansas discover two previously unknown faults, he said.

One Quake in 2014

Following the shutdown, earthquakes in the Guy-Greenbrier area fell from 725 in 2011 to eight in 2012, Scott Ausbrooks, geohazards supervisor for the Arkansas Geological Survey in Little Rock, told Bloomberg BNA July 14. So far in 2014, the region has recorded one earthquake, he said.

The commission amended its Class II Underground Injection Control program rules following the earthquakes, Bengal said. Class II wells are used to dispose of oil and wastewater by high-pressure, deep injection. The state's moratorium is still in place, Bengal said, adding, "We have no plans to lift it."

Two of the four wells were owned by Chesapeake Operating Inc., which later sold its wells to BHP Billiton Petroleum (Fayetteville) Inc. A third well was owned by Clarita Operating LLC, a small waste disposal company based in Ada, Okla. Both companies voluntarily shut down injection at the commission's request.

The commission had to force the owner of the fourth well, Deep-Six Water Disposal Services Inc. of Edmond, Okla., to shut down operations, Bengal said.

The commission also imposed a moratorium on wastewater injection in a nearly 1,200-square-mile area of the Fayetteville shale region north of Conway, including near Greenbrier, Guy and Enola, he said. All four wells were located inside the moratorium area, he said.

Recycled or Reused

Today, most of the wastewater generated by oil and gas production inside the moratorium area is either being recycled and reused or trucked to other parts of the state where injection is allowed, Bengal said.

"Because of the hydraulic fracturing methodology, there is a lot more fluid to handle," he said. "There is a lot of water produced in flowback, and the activity level is just much higher."

Additional rules approved by the commission in the aftermath of the Guy-Greenbrier earthquake swarms—which is what intense, localized seismic events are known as—included a requirement requiring distancing between wells and near faults, Bengal said.

"Three of the wells in the Guy-Greenbrier event were in fairly close proximity to one another," he said. "They were all impacting the same fault. One of the problems, obviously, is that you don't know the fault is there."

Location Rejection

Another new rule is a provision allowing the commission to deny a well for a particular location if the potential for seismic activity is high, he said.

"Should we feel there is potential for a fault to be there, and they propose an injection well, we might not allow it in that location," he said.

> *"While we can never be 100 percent sure that drilling activities are connected to a seismic event, caution dictates that we take these new steps to protect human health, safety and the environment."*
>
> *James Zehringer, Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

Following the Guy-Greenbrier shutdown, oil and gas companies shared information openly with the state.

"Once the earthquakes started, we asked if we could see their 3-D seismic data," Ausbrooks said. "They confirmed the fault was there. They were focused on the payzone, the area where the hydrocarbons were located, which was several thousand feet above the fault."

"We had a good relationship with the companies early on, but once the lawyers got involved, neither side could talk to one another," he said.

Several class-action lawsuits were filed by homeowners who accused the companies of triggering earthquakes that caused property damage, Ausbrooks said.

Seismic Data Proprietary

In August 2013 a federal court approved a confidential settlement resolving one consolidated set of the lawsuits (*Hearn v. BHP Billiton Petroleum (Fayetteville) Inc.,* E.D. Ark., No. 4:11-cv-474, 8/29/13; 169 DEN A-2, 8/30/13).

Several more cases are still pending, Bengal said.

Ausbrooks said the state geological survey would like to know as much about what is happening underground as oil and gas producers know from seismic testing.

"That kind of information would be helpful," he said. "But they paid a lot of money to get it, and it's proprietary. It would put them at a disadvantage if they release it and their competitors don't."

Geologists are most concerned about the deeper fault structure, he said. Oil and gas companies are "looking at the middle and upper layers."

"We're concerned about the lower part. Whether there should be a rule or not to require them to share that information, I don't know," Ausbrooks said.

Colorado Shut Down Well in June

Colorado in late June shut down an injection well near the Greeley-Weld County airport in northeastern Colorado because of its potential link to earthquakes in the area. The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission allowed the operator of the well, NGL Water Solutions DJ, to resume injection July 18 after making several changes.

The commission also said NGL may have violated its permit by exceeding the volumes it is allowed to inject into the well (139 DEN A-1, 7/21/14).

Leading scientists have closely studied the potential earthquake risks from oil and natural gas development "and concluded it's extremely low," Jon Haubert, spokesman for Coloradans for Responsible Energy Development, an energy industry group in Denver, told Bloomberg BNA July 10.

The recent Greeley quakes give "scientists and professionals within our state agencies another opportunity to study the issue at hand," he said.

'Stringent Environmental Rules.'

Most forms of energy production have the potential to shake the ground, he said. In Colorado, residents "can have assurance that oil and natural gas development is done properly here in our state because of our stringent environmental rules and regulations already in place," he said.

The first national study of induced seismicity was conducted in Colorado, focusing on a spate of earthquakes that began in March 1962 at the Army's Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver after the injection of wastewater into a 12,000-foot injection well, according to the commission. The injection triggered an unusually frequent series of earthquakes nearby from January 1963 to August 1967.

Injection stopped in 1968. In 1990, a report to the EPA established that injection volumes at the arsenal were related to seismic events, demonstrating for the first time a causal link between fluid injection and earthquakes.

Sufficient Safeguards

Colorado now has sufficient safeguards in place to reduce the likelihood of induced seismicity, Stuart Ellsworth, engineering manager with the state oil and gas commission, told Bloomberg BNA July 8.

Commission rules require operators to provide certain information in the well permitting process, he said. The information includes well construction, groundwater and injection zone isolation, fracture gradient—the pressure increase per unit of depth of a well, usually measured in pounds per inch—and maximums for injection rate, volume and pressure.

Permit applications also must include injection zone water quality and potential seismicity associated with fluid injection, Ellsworth said.

Additionally, in September 2011, the commission's UIC permit review process began requiring operators to conduct a review for seismicity in consultation with the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS).

Identify Seismic Potential

The CGS uses geologic maps, the U.S. Geological Survey earthquake database and area-specific knowledge to provide an opinion of seismic potential, the commission said. If historical seismicity has been identified near a Class II underground injection control well, the commission requires the well's operator to define the seismicity potential and the proximity to faults through geologic and geophysical data before the permit can be approved.

Doug Flanders, director of policy and external affairs for the Colorado Oil & Gas Association, told Bloomberg BNA July 10 the association believes the state responded correctly with the NGL shutdown.

Although there have been a few seismic incidents in the state in the past six months, said Flanders, they haven't been observed "like in some other areas of the country."

New Fracking Rules in Ohio

Like Arkansas, Ohio has made rule changes, implementing new permitting regulations for fracked, horizontally drilled wells after a series of earthquakes in March in Mahoning County.

From January 2011 to February 2012, state researchers recorded more than 100 earthquakes in northeast Ohio that eventually were linked to fracking wastewater pumped deep underground into injection wells near Youngstown.

Since 2012, Ohio has had a moratorium on the disposal of fracking wastewater in counties where seismic activity has been a problem, notably the area around Youngstown.

Also since 2012, Ohio has seen "historic" growth in natural gas production due to fracking, which nearly doubled from 2012 to 2013, according to James Zehringer, the director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The ODNR regulates the oil and gas industry in Ohio, giving it ultimate authority over fracking development statewide.

Unlike the northeast Ohio earthquakes of 2011 and 2012, which were linked to underground injection of fracking wastewater, state geologists concluded that horizontal drilling was the "probable" cause of the March tremors in Mahoning County, said Richard Simmers, ODNR's chief of Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management.

State geologists believe the sand and water injected into the well during the hydraulic fracturing process may

have increased pressure on an unknown microfault, Zehringer said.

Further hydraulic fracturing at the site is suspended but the company will be permitted to recover resources from five previously drilled wells located on the pad, according to the department.

First Linkage

The Mahoning County earthquakes were the first time in the state that horizontal drilling had been linked to local quakes, said Simmers, addressing a seminar July 2 on the state's Utica and Marcellus shale oil and gas industry.

In April, following the quakes, the department adopted new permitting rules for drilling sites located near faults or areas of past seismic activity, calling for sensitive seismic monitors to be placed at new fracking operations within three miles of known fault lines or areas that experienced an earthquake greater than magnitude 2.0.

If these monitors detect a seismic event in excess of 1.0 magnitude, mining activities will be paused while the cause is investigated. If the ODNR inquiry reveals a probable connection to the hydraulic fracturing process, all well completion operations will be suspended, according to the department, with a moratorium placed on any drilling within 3 miles of the epicenter.

Drill site operators must provide the monitors, the ODNR said, noting each costs about $20,000 and an average drilling site would probably need five.

Reviewing Issued Permits

The department said that in light of the policy change, it is reviewing previously issued permits for wells that have not yet been drilled. However, the ODNR said it won't require monitoring at wells that already have been drilled.

In addition to on-site monitoring, the ODNR is installing a network of sensitive seismic monitors across the state that will allow researchers to triangulate a tremor event, determine the location of its epicenter and gauge how deep it is.

So far ODNR has set up about 20 solar-powered monitors, said Simmers, noting that this "live interactive monitoring" by seismologists will give the ODNR the ability to determine the cause of future earthquakes.

Monitoring information will also augment data collected by the Ohio Seismic Network, which has been recording seismic data since 1999, he said.

Simmers said information gleaned from the Ohio Seismic Network, coordinated by the ODNR, will be used as part of the new permit application review process.

Oklahoma Study

Concern over the potential relationship between earthquakes and oil and gas exploration remains high in Oklahoma, spurred by unprecedented levels of seismic activity in the state and the release of a July 3 study conducted by seismologists and hydrogeologists from Cornell University, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Columbia University and the USGS, concluding that the recent earthquake surge in the central part of the state is likely attributable to injection of wastewater at a small number of wells.

> *"If there's any kind of minor anomaly they're told to shut down and fix it because we don't know at this point what is minor."*
>
> *Matt Skinner, Oklahoma Corporation Commission*

In light of the recent seismicity, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, which regulates oil and gas activity in the state, is increasing its adoption of a best practices protocol related to the permitting and operation of injection wells.

Also, more robust data reporting requirements for injection wells are set to come into effect in September, the commission said.

Following a 1975-2008 period that produced 56 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater, Oklahoma has been the site of approximately 538 earthquakes over the last six years, according to Oklahoma Geological Survey data, including 260 so far in 2014—more than double the previous high of 109 set in 2013.

Intensification of Well Permitting Protocols

Matt Skinner, spokesman for the OCC, told Bloomberg BNA July 10 the commission is working toward "intensifying" the use of the "traffic light" approach "to the point where now seismicity concerns are being expressed in any permitting of wells."

Recommended in 2012 by the National Academy of Sciences, the "traffic light" control system would be applied to an instance of induced seismicity. Under a green light, an operator would be free to inject fluids; under a red light, injection would be stopped to allow for further investigation.

A yellow light would allow for low levels of seismicity but would come with added monitoring and mitigation requirements if earthquakes increased in magnitude or frequency, the National Academy of Sciences said.

Skinner likened the approach to a preflight check an airplane would run through, noting that there would be circumstances under which wells wouldn't be cleared for operation if it failed to meet certain standards.

"That's what we're busy developing," said Skinner, referring to the standards. "The intensification effort means that those things—going back to the jetliner analogy—that were considered minor at one time are not considered minor any longer simply because we don't know."

Any well that has a seismicity problem that would be considered minor under the commission's primary mission of water protection is bound to raise a yellow light, Skinner said.

Oklahoma currently can shut down wells because of seismicity, Skinner said, adding that the OCC would need "just a suggestion of a correlation between the well's operation and seismic activity in the area."

Skinner held up the October 2013 shutdown of a disposal well that may have triggered a swarm of earthquakes in Love County a month earlier as a "perfect example."

"Any well that is proposed for right on top of a fault is going to be a red light. We'll oppose it," he said.

Daily Reporting

As part of an effort to achieve a better understanding and improve studies investigating causes of Oklahoma's increased seismicity, a suite of rules requiring energy operators to conduct injection well mechanical integrity testing and other data-gathering activities each day will be brought into effect Sept. 12, according to Skinner, marking the culmination of a process launched by initial March approval by the OCC and approval by the Oklahoma Legislature and signature of Gov. Mary Fallin (R) (53 DEN A-15, 3/19/14).

Additionally, commercial wells will be subject to yearly mechanical integrity tests instead of every five years, and

the new OCC regulations will see increased data reporting requirements that Skinner said will be key to understanding the state's seismic landscape.

"We'll get real-time data, which we don't have now because reports are prepared monthly on injection wells," Skinner said. "Now they will be reported daily, they will have digital monitors on certain classes of wells that are of the most interest and that will help a lot."

Hiding Studies?

Environmental groups in Oklahoma say the limited amount of information on earthquakes has hamstrung efforts to investigate their root causes.

"We believe the oil and gas companies in our state are not being forthcoming with valuable data that would help scientists investigate this swarm and regulators pass meaningful safeguards," David Ocamb, Oklahoma Sierra Club executive director, told Bloomberg BNA in a July 9 e-mail.

"Much like how big tobacco hid their health studies, we firmly believe the oil and gas industry is hiding information concerning induced seismicity," Ocamb said.

"The Texas oil and natural gas industry agrees that recent seismic activity warrants robust investigation to determine the precise location, impact and cause or causes of these events."

Deb Mamula, Texas Oil & Gas Association

Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association (OIPA) spokesman Cody Bannister told Bloomberg BNA in a July 11 e-mail that OIPA—representing 2,500 individuals and companies from Oklahoma's oil and natural gas industry—has formed a "working group" made up of its member companies, industry regulators and researchers "to ensure those regulators and researchers have access to industry data that may assist them" in their efforts in exploring the state's increased seismic activity.

Industry Supports Study

Responding to the study's central contention that the state's earthquake surge "is likely attributable" to subsurface wastewater injection at just a handful of disposal wells, OIPA President Mike Terry said in a statement that the association and the oil and gas industry "as a whole support the continued study" of the state's increased seismic activity.

"But a rush to judgment based on one researcher's findings provides no clear understanding of the causes," he said.

"This is a moving target," the OCC's Skinner said, referring to the ambiguity surrounding the source of the earthquakes. "We don't know enough yet to be able to do a rulemaking other than the rulemaking we've already done."

"This is not an academic exercise in policy making for us," Skinner said. "Our homes are cracking, our homes are shaking. The fact is that it's frightening. We are working as hard as we can, and we're devoting everything we can to this."

Texas Quakes

In Texas, which has also faced unprecedented levels of seismic activity in its Fort Worth Basin, the state Legislature and the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) have moved to gather additional seismic information. However, Texas has stopped short of putting forth policy changes in response to induced seismicity.

The USGS identified 27 low-magnitude earthquakes beginning in November 2013 on the outskirts of Fort Worth, including a pair of earthquakes registering 3.6 in magnitude.

Only one earthquake was recorded in the basin prior to 2008, according to the North Texas Earthquake Group headed by seismologists at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Since then, there have been 70, the group told state lawmakers.

'Without Historic Precedent.'

"The current level of seismicity in the Fort Worth Basin is without historic precedent, just as is the much higher level of seismicity currently in progress in central Oklahoma and southern Kansas," SMU seismologists Heather DeShon and Brian Stump told the state's inaugural hearing of the Special Seismic Activity Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy Resources.

"All of these areas are places where recent changes in the production practices for oil and gas have resulted in the injection of large volumes of wastewater," the study group said. "The possibility that they are related should not be dismissed so that improved practices for safe disposal of wastewaters can be developed and implemented."

'Not Happen Again.'

Alan Brundrett, mayor of Azle, a town of 11,220 that has seen more than 20 earthquakes since November 2013, told Bloomberg BNA in a July 9 e-mail that although injection wells triggering earthquakes are a rare occurrence, "we need to make sure it does not happen again in the future."

Brundett said he would like to see "seismic monitoring of an area before a new injection well permit is issued." He said he also would like to see "daily volumes and pressures of the wells provided to the RRC so the data could be linked if a seismic event were to occur."

Disposal wells should be shut down if they affect the health and well-being of the community, he said.

No Shutdown Authority

The commission doesn't have the authority to shut down a well based "only on the presence of a nearby earthquake," Gaye McElwain, a Railroad Commission representative, told Bloomberg BNA in a July 11 e-mail.

McElwain said the commission's jurisdiction "generally" extends to threats of water pollution, without a specific allowance to seismic activity. A well could be shut down immediately if there is an indication of injection fluids escaping the disposal interval, she said.

"Our inspections in the 15-mile radius of Azle showed no indications that this was occurring," McElwain said. "To date there has been no scientific proof that a specific well or wells caused the Azle-area earthquakes."

Study Activity

Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter said the RRC's seismologist would closely examine and study the state's seismic activity to achieve "an understanding of what, if any, human activity" induced the events.

"At this time, Railroad Commission of Texas staff has not identified a definitive correlation between seismic activity and injection wells or hydraulic fracturing in Texas," said the RRC's McElwain.

The RRC's Porter told lawmakers, "It is imperative that the Commission base its rules and regulations on sound science and proven facts, not speculation and theories."

The Railroad Commission permitted its first disposal well in 1936. Most of the state's wastewater injection wells are located in the Permian Basin in West Texas.

Town Hall

The RRC conducted a Jan. 2 town hall with Azle residents to listen to their concerns over seismicity. It announced April 1 the hiring of an in-house seismologist, David Craig Pearson, a Texas-educated geophysicist and former team leader for a Los Alamos National Laboratory seismic, experimental field team.

In a May 12 statement on the Texas Legislature's seismic activity hearing, the Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) said it is taking the issue of seismicity "very seriously," saying it has "heightened its focus on disposal wells" and is "taking proactive steps" to mitigate risk related to seismic activity.

The oil and gas industry has also formed a Joint Industry Workgroup, a group TXOGA said "is in the process" of developing standards for considerations related to disposal well siting and seismic activity.

Cyrus Reed, conservation director of the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter, said the science was clear enough to warrant the RRC's adoption of multiple rules designed to address seismicity concerns.

"We believe the commission should adopt rules requiring installation of portable seismic monitors around areas of high disposal activity," Reed told Bloomberg BNA in a July 10 e-mail.

Additionally, he said, the commission should reopen a proposed rulemaking on injection wells and require a list of measures including: a seismic analysis of formations and surrounding areas; pre- and post-monitoring of seismic activity; specific permit limits related to the amount of fluid, depth of fluid, and type of formations; and requiring specific permit conditions to allow stoplight and mitigation measures.

RRC Authority

"While we believe the RRC has the authority to take all of these steps, when the Legislature convenes next year, they should still develop legislation giving the commission specific authorization to address seismic induction in its permitting of oil and gas disposal activities," said Reed, who also called for the passing of legislation that authorizes the commission to consider seismic activity in all permitting issues, including in contested case hearings.

Additionally, Reed said the Legislature should empower the commission by giving it specific authority to suspend or terminate permits and activities that could lead to induced seismicity.

"These recommendations are not novel," Reed said. "Portions of them have been implemented in several states, such as Ohio, Arkansas, Colorado and Oklahoma. By implementing these basic recommendations, Texas can make significant progress toward improving the well-being of affected communities and their private property."

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To contact the editor responsible for this story: Larry Pearl at lpearl@bna.com

For More Information

A map of the Arkansas permanent well disposal moratorium area is available from the state Oil and Gas Commission at http://www.aogc.state.ar.us/notices/Ex.%201B%20-Permanent%20Disposal%20Well%20Moratorium%20Area.pdf.

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Eidlin: EPA's proposed rules on C02 above criticism

Unimaginable that anyone can think we should do nothing

By Richard Eidlin | July 31, 2014 | Updated: July 31, 2014 7:36pm

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Some national business organizations have hammered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for proposing new rules on carbon pollution from existing power plants, cutting carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, using 2005 levels as a baseline. What planet are they on?

It's ludicrous to pretend that climate change isn't happening. It's beyond comprehension that large business advocacy organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, think that our government should stand by and do nothing, while climate-related disasters in 2012 caused more than $139 billion in damages, while U.S. taxpayers shelled out $96 billion in climate-related damages in 2012 alone, or while sea levels rise 6.6 feet by 2100 - enough to swamp Miami.

Let's be clear: The costs from carbon pollution will be terrible for business. Climate change poses tremendous risks - insurance premiums will skyrocket, electricity prices will soar, jobs will be lost, food and transportation costs will go up and taxes will probably rise in order to pay for needed infrastructure upgrades.

That's why business organizations like ours, and many of our largest companies, including Johnson & Johnson, Apple, Exelon and Intel, reject the notion that EPA's rules will destroy the economy. National Grid U.S. president Tom King noted, "I am strongly encouraged by EPA's efforts to reduce CO2 emissions through sensible and practical regulation."

This is no minority view. Polling released recently by the American Sustainable Business Council found that 64 percent of small business owners - a plurality of whom are Republicans - believe government regulation is needed to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. This is important because, as the same poll shows, about 1 in 5 small business owners said climate change has already affected their operations.

For these and other smaller companies, anticipating and innovating are crucial for success. Why would business people ignore those principles when addressing climate change?

Perhaps climate skeptics fail to see that the EPA's proposal will define a market for solutions, not dictate what the solutions are. Perhaps they are unaware that the standards provide for flexibility on the part of governors, or that carbon reductions will enhance this nation's international credibility and competitiveness. Entrepreneurial activity and private sector capital follows closely in response to government action to address climate change.

Under this plan, states would have extensive options to choose how they meet these standards - and businesses, including utilities, will have time to adapt. EPA's goals take into account each state's unique and current energy mix. This is a smart approach that recognizes the dynamic nature of the market and the power of businesses to innovate.

Electricity generation accounts for a third of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, more than any other economic sector. Coal plants are the worst offenders of all: In 2012, coal energy was responsible for nearly a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. The 100 dirtiest power plants in this country are responsible for 3.2 percent of global CO2

emissions - and all but two are coal-fired plants. Cutting these emissions is crucial, but there are multiple ways to get it done.

A state like Kansas, which had as many as 4,000 jobs supported by wind energy in 2013, could invest in more wind power. Arizona, which led in solar energy per capita in 2012, could continue its rapid growth. The same could go for Washington state, the leader in hydropower. And states that want to join regional cap-and-trade systems can do so. EPA's proposal will let states set their own course to meeting these standards.

Texas is already moving closer to meeting these standards by improving transmission lines for wind farms, which will help ensure its abundant wind capacity gets to the Texans who need it. From the state that set a wind power record earlier this year, that's a meaningful step.

Even without such measures, though, Texas actually has a lot to gain from these rules - a study from the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Rhodium Group identified Texas as one of four states that could see a combined $16 billion annual net benefit as a result of increased natural gas production.

Smart business people know that clear market signals and regulatory certainty drive investment.

The EPA's carbon rules will lead to greater profit and prosperity, boosting economic growth and creating jobs. So when you hear someone say we can't afford to take action on climate change, remember: The costliest thing we can do is nothing. Inaction is not how successful businesses operate.

What the EPA and many business leaders understand is that failure to address climate change is what will cause the most economic pain. It's time to tackle climate change before it costs our people, businesses and nation even more.

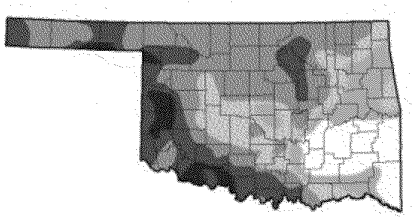
Richard Eidlin is director of public policy for the Washington, D.C.-based American Sustainable Business Council.

Dwindling Drought Doesn't Mean a Slowdown in Water Conservation Efforts

JULY 31, 2014 | 3:25 PM

BY LOGAN LAYDEN

Despite more than 80 percent of the state still being under some level of drought, recent wet weather and below average temperatures continue to reduce the severity and size of drought in Oklahoma.



U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR

The July 29 update of the U.S. Drought Monitor, which doesn't reflect the full impact of this week's rainfall.

As *The Oklahoman*'s Graham Lee Brewer Reports, this week's rainfall "bookended one of the wettest July's on record for the state, with some areas receiving more than seven inches of rain."

> *Including data reported just before 6 p.m. Wednesday, the statewide Oklahoma Mesonet rainfall average of rate past 30 days was 3.89 inches — 1.11 inches above normal.*
>
> *That number equates to the 22nd-wettest such period dating to 1921, state climatologist Gary McManus said.*

And the largest amount of rainfall came in some of the places that needed it the most. Altus had a good month in general, and this week's rains particularly helped conditions in northwest Oklahoma.

> *Of the Oklahoma Mesonet weather network's 120 stations, through Wednesday evening, Oklahoma county had the top three sites in terms of rainfall received this month, each with more than 7.25 inches.*
>
> *The next highest total in the state was 7.20 inches at Altus. The Southwestern Oklahoma community continues to battle drought and has done so more on than off since October 2010.*

But all the precipitation hasn't caused long-suffering cities and towns to back away from conservation, quite the opposite. As KOCO's Danielle Dozier reports, Altus recently partnered with Coca-Cola to give away 100 rain barrels to its residents, while metro communities are offering discounts:

> *Oklahoma City, Midwest City and Yukon have partnered with the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Alliance in offering discounted rain barrels ordered by clicking a link on the cities' websites.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says nearly 40 percent of household water

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use during the peak summer months goes toward watering lawns and gardens, and that rain barrels can save more than 1,000 gallons of water during that time.

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By Kim th
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Major oil field spill in Kingfisher County

Concern acidic runoff could reach nearby creek, town water system

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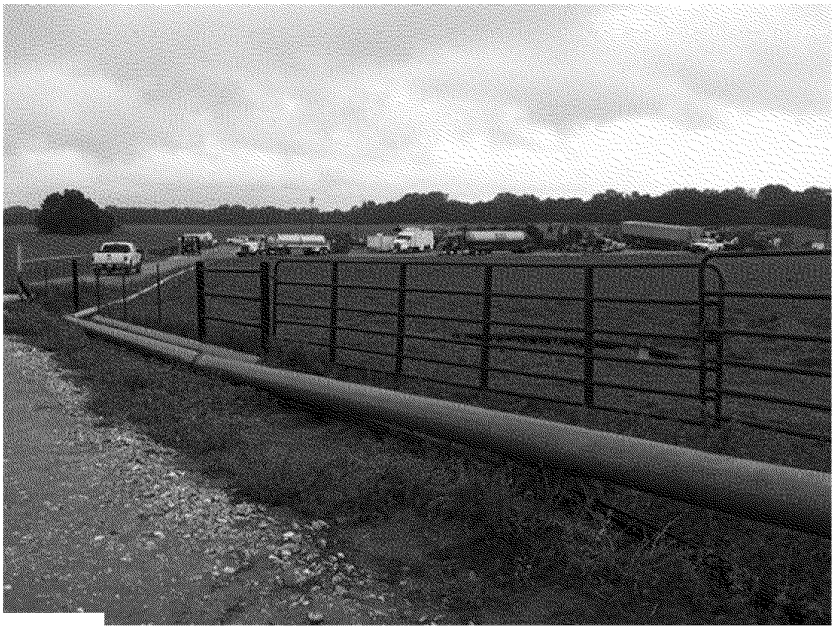

VIEW LARGE

HENNESSEY, Okla. — The cause of a major oil field spill just outside the town of Hennessey in Kingfisher County is now under investigation.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reports it may be the biggest spill from fracking they've ever handled. Now there are concerns about tainting the town's water supply.

Nearly 500 barrels of acid spilled in an alfalfa field Monday morning. The chemical HCL is used for fracking operations. There's concern heavy rain will push the runoff into nearby Turkey Creek, which flows into Hennessey's water system.

The Corporation Commission is overseeing the cleanup of the acid spill just south of town. Their top priority is keeping the powerful chemical from getting into the water.

"That is why we have the berms set up," said Matt Skinner of the Corporation Commission.

There's a lot of liquid to contain after more than 20,000 gallons spilled. That's nearly enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

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“A spill of that size related to fracking, that is very, very rare,” Skinner said.

What hasn't been cleaned up so far has seeped into the ground. The contaminated dirt will be removed but Wednesday it was too muddy to bring in heavy equipment.

Blake Production claims a rental tank malfunctioned Monday morning, but they've never had a major accident like this before. Blake Vernon of Blake Production said his company will pay the landowner for the next six years for the loss of his alfalfa crop. The landowner and a neighbor declined to be interviewed because of ongoing litigation with the company.

“The Hawks are very concerned about the acid spill that occurred on their property,” the landowner’s attorney Matthew R. Oppel said in a statement. “The spill occurred in the center of my client’s alfalfa field and while the property is currently used for agricultural purposes the Hawks hoped to build a home on their Turkey Creek property. Unfortunately the spill will not only affect the Hawks immediate use and enjoyment, but future development may be impossible. This does not even begin to address the effects on the ground water, runoff, wildlife and the recent 2 inches of rain will only exacerbate the damage.

“It is our understanding that the acid spill, consisting of approximately 19,000 gallons, occurred while Blake Production was completing the well. At this point, Blake has suggested a soil remediation company, but the company has not contacted my clients or my office, nor has Blake even approached the Hawks concerning the damages to their property. The Hawks hope Blake will remedy the situation, but their dealings with Blake in the past have not left them optimistic.”

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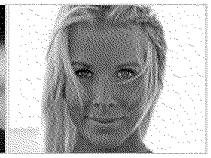

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U.S. Wildlife Authorities Join State in Investigation of Owl Deaths at Oil Field Site

JULY 31, 2014 | 12:56 PM

BY JOE WERTZ

PROVIDED / OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Officials found several dead birds in this open saltwater tank at an oilfield site in northwest Oklahoma.

Federal authorities have joined state officials in an investigation of bird deaths at a neglected oil field site in northwestern Oklahoma.

Two oil-covered barn owls were found along with several other dead birds. The owls were taken in by a Fairview caretaker licensed to handle non-migratory birds, but both owls later died, the *Enid News & Eagle* and Associated Press report.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation are investigating the bird deaths. Neither agency will release details until the investigation is complete, the AP reports.

> *Micah Holmes, spokesman for the Department of Wildlife Conservation, said once the agency's report is ready, it will be turned over to prosecutors. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could also decide to take over the case, Holmes said.*

After the dead birds were found in an uncovered saltwater tank, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission on July 22 inspected the site, which is operated by a Cushing energy company. Commission inspectors found a litany of safety and environmental violations at

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the site, including rusty, leaking equipment and soil contaminated with oil.

The commission gave the operator until Aug. 23 to fix the problems and bring the site into compliance, records show.

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As Renewable Energy Grows, Wind and Solar Pull Ahead of Hydropower

AUGUST 1, 2014 | 6:00 AM

BY DYLAN BADDOUR

Wind and solar energy now routinely surpasses hydroelectric generation as an energy source in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Hydropower is the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S. (but, not surprisingly, not in Texas). The state's online Window on State Government calls it "a tiny portion of the state's electricity supply with little economic impact and limited prospects for expansion."

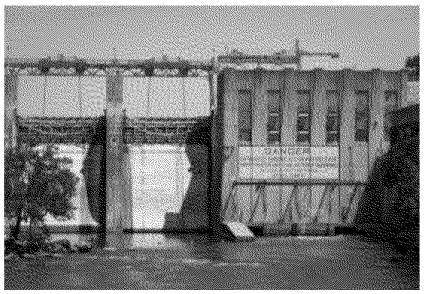
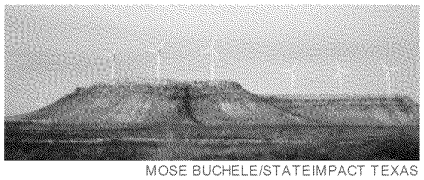


PHOTO BY DANIEL REESE FOR KUT NEWS.

Hydroelectricity generated by Austin's Tom Miller Dam is a renewable resource. Photo by Daniel Reese for KUT News.

However, Texas is actually a leader in clean energy development. Programs like state renewable portfolio standards and federal tax credits for renewable energies have encouraged the growth of wind and solar power generation, according to the EIA. The effect has been particularly pronounced in Texas, the nation's biggest wind energy producer.

Nationally, wind generation has increased from three percent to over 30 percent of total renewable generation since 2003. Texas wind power saw tremendous growth during that time. With the Texas Renewable Portfolio Standard from 1999 and the state's Emerging Technology Fund from 2005, Texas energy demand met with wind power rose from one percent in 2001 to 10 percent in 2014.



MOSE BUCHELE/STATEIMPACT TEXAS

Wind turbines in West Texas help produce record amounts of electricity for the state.

In solar generation, Texas is lagging behind some other sunny Southwestern states, but progress is underway. The city of El Paso doubled its solar power generation capacity in 2014 and will rely heavily on a massive new solar farm (even if it's in New Mexico). Austin and San Antonio have also become national frontrunners in the use of solar energy.

Perhaps the biggest boost for renewable energy in Texas was a recently completed $7 billion project to connect wind farms of West Texas and the Panhandle to big cities where the power is used. The project has opened huge energy markets, which once relied on nearby power plants, to wind production hundreds of miles away.

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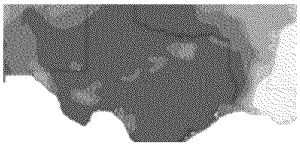

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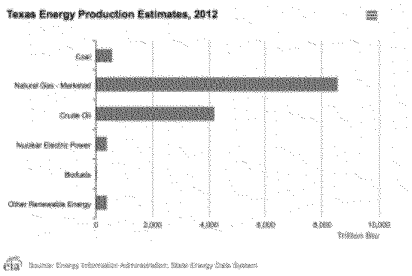
Hydropower came to Texas in the 1930's as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal economic stimulus. The Lower Colorado River Authority was initially created in 1935 as a quasi-public corporation that qualified to receive New Deal funding from the federal government to build six dams on the Colorado River by 1941. Today, Texas has 23 dams with hydroelectric generators.

Hydropower remains the top renewable energy source in the Pacific Northwest, where in Washington and Oregon it accounts for 69 percent and 56 percent of total electricity generation, respectively, according to the EIA.



Renewable energy sources still form a small part of Texas' overall energy production.

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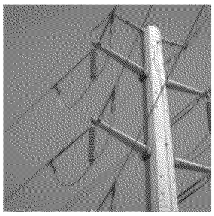

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To: jmark2007@gmail.com[jmark2007@gmail.com]
From: Mark, Jeremy
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 9:07:54 PM
Subject: FW: Airline Ticket Information

-----Original Message-----
From: GovTrip.eTravel.System@etsproext01.govtrip.com
[mailto:GovTrip.eTravel.System@etsproext01.govtrip.com]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 10:01 PM
To: Mark, Jeremy
Subject: Airline Ticket Information

PNRSTAT.LTR

07/25/14

This e-letter is to notify you that your GovTrip eTravel System Authorization named JMPITTSBURGHP073114_A01-04 with Trip Details Pittsburgh hearing for 111(d) on July 31 - Aug 1 was just stamped CTO TICKETED by the TMC.
The CTO TICKETED segment(s) are listed below:

Dep Date	Dep Time	Dep Airport	Flt#	Carrier
073114	0930	DCA	3957	US
080114	1415	PIT	4883	UA

To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Dylan
Sent: Fri 8/1/2014 6:36:31 PM
Subject: The State Journal - West Virginians voice opinions at EPA Clean Power Plan meetings in Pittsburgh

The State Journal - West Virginians voice opinions at EPA Clean Power Plan meetings in Pittsburgh

Posted: Aug 01, 2014 2:16 PM EDT

Updated: Aug 01, 2014 2:16 PM EDT

PITTSBURGH, Pa. - By SUZANNE ELLIOTT

For The State Journal

The Environmental Protection Agency's plan to limit carbon emissions from power plants drew harsh criticism from several of West Virginia's elected officials at a public hearing in Pittsburgh.

"Whether this administration chooses to recognize it or not, the fact is coal powers nearly 40 percent of our electricity in the country. It's not going anywhere," said West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, during the first day of a two-day public session the EPA is holding on the proposed Clean Power Plan in downtown Pittsburgh. The hearings continued Friday, Aug. 1. Similar public hearings have been held in Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

The Clean Power Plan, part of President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan, would cut hundreds of millions of tons of carbon pollution and hundreds of thousands of tons of particle pollution, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, the EPA said. Because coal is mostly carbon, sulfur, hydrogen and nitrogen, those in the coal industry have felt they are being targeted by the Clean Power Plan.

The federal proposal sets state-specific goals and options to meet them in a flexible manner, either alone or with several other states in a multi-state plan. It is also expected

to reduce pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog by more than 25 percent. States have until June 30, 2016 to have a plan completed.

“Trying to squeeze coal out of the energy equation is not only unrealistic, it is dangerous and irresponsible,” she said. “There is no reason to pit clean air against good-paying jobs. West Virginia can lead the country in developing advanced coal technology that supports both.”

Tennant said the Obama Administration should invest more in carbon capture and storage technology to reduce emissions from coal-powered utility plants. She said there is $8 billion from a Department of Energy loan guarantee program that had been earmarked for development of this technology.

“Not only will this approach strengthen and protect our coal jobs in West Virginia,” she said. “It will create a whole new opportunity for American job growth by developing and perfecting CCS technology and meeting global demand. Work with us, not against us. Instead of attacking coal jobs with regulations, invest in West Virginia and we will deliver the technology to cut emissions without cutting jobs.”

“It is not right that we as West Virginians have to take our message to Pennsylvania in order to be heard,” she said. “But, we will not be ignored.”

Power plants are the largest concentrated source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, making up nearly one-third of all domestic greenhouse emissions. There are currently no national limits on carbon pollution issues.

The EPA proposal puts the nation on track to cut carbon pollution by 30 percent by 2030, which equates to 730 million metric tons of carbon pollution, or emissions from 150 million cars. The EPA said the Clean Power Plan has public health and climate benefits worth $55 billion to $93 billion per year in 2030, which would outweigh the $7.3 billion to $8.8 billion that the plan would cost to implement. Reducing exposure to particle pollution and ozone in 2030 will avoid a projected 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths; 145,000 asthma attacks in children; 340 to 3,300 heart attacks, 2,750 hospital admissions and 480,000 missed school or work days.

Vincent Brisini, deputy secretary of the state Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Waste Air, Radiation and Remediation, said the EPA needs to proceed with the Clean Power Plan cautiously.

"These types of decisions should not be made by elected officials," Brisini said.

But, Ed Perry, an aquatic biologist, said the EPA needs to move quickly on its Clean Power Plan.

"Global warming is here," said Perry, adding that rising temperatures caused 35 percent loss of the habitat of the Brook Trout, the state fish. In addition, the state tree, the Eastern Hemlock, has dwindled in numbers because of rising temperatures, he said.

"For 350 months, we have had above average temperatures," Perry said.

To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Dylan
Sent: Fri 8/1/2014 1:34:12 PM
Subject: Pittsburgh Post – Gazette - EPA hearings continue today on controversial carbon emissions regs

Pittsburgh Post – Gazette - EPA hearings continue today on controversial carbon emissions regs

August 1, 2014 12:01 AM

By Don Hopey, Stephanie Ritenbaugh and Madeline Conway / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The first day of hearings in Pittsburgh on proposed federal carbon controls for coal-burning power plants spawned a march by thousands of coal miners and a rally by hundreds of environmentalists and succeeded in demonstrating that a major change in the nation's energy policy will not be easy.

More than 135 individuals spoke at Thursday's hearing with a like number scheduled to speak today. The lists of speakers at the hearings include 22 members of the United Mine Workers of America, 15 Sierra Club leaders or members, eight International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers members, three members of Mom's Clean Air Force, two coal companies and former astronaut Jay Apt, now a professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

The testimony offered Thursday was both evenly and widely divided.

Patricia DeMarco, a biologist and senior scholar of Chatham University who holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University, was first to offer testimony Thursday morning and said the transition from a fossil-fueled energy system to a renewable-energy-powered economy is the best way to abate the impacts of climate-changing gas emissions.

"While the change from an energy system entrenched for 200 years seems daunting,"

she said, “the consequences of continuing this pattern of energy use are surely devastating both to the atmosphere and to the fresh water system, for us and especially for our children and their grandchildren.”

But Vincent Brisini, deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s office of waste, air and radiation protection, who testified next, said the touted flexibility of the carbon rule is “illusionary” and questioned its legality and whether the EPA should be making regulatory decisions with such far-reaching social and economic outcomes.

The standards would cut carbon emissions from power plants -- the single largest source of carbon pollution that contributes to climate change -- by 30 percent from 2005 levels but would set individual goals for states and allow them to craft policies to reach their particular reduction goal.

The proposal would require a 32 percent reduction of carbon pollution from Pennsylvania power plants by 2030 from 2012 levels. Pennsylvania power plants put out 48 percent of the state’s carbon pollution, according to the EPA.

Airborne particle emissions would also be reduced by the rule by more than 25 percent, according to the EPA, while providing up to $93 billion in climate and public health benefits. Those health benefits in 2030 would include avoidance of an estimated 6,600 premature deaths, 150,000 childhood asthma attacks, and 490,000 missed days of work or school.

The hearings on what the EPA calls the “Clean Power Plan” began at 9 a.m. and ran until 8 p.m. in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Ave., Downtown. The EPA said individuals can still register on site to testify. The hearings in Pittsburgh end today but written public comment can be submitted until Oct. 16.

The rules will not be finalized until June 15, 2015, and expected legal challenges from the electric power, coal industry and some states could delay implementation for years.

John Pippy, chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, the industry trade organization, said the proposed rules are “an attempt to transform the American energy supply away from coal.”

Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County executive, called the rules a “common sense, flexible, achievable plan to reduce carbon emissions” and said they would benefit the 1 in 5 children in the state with asthma.

She also said it’s an opportunity for the nation to display leadership on climate change.

“It’s an important first step,” she said,” that demonstrates the U.S. is resolute in addressing this issue.”

Kevin Stewart, director of environmental health for the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic, urged the EPA to set emissions targets that exclude already announced coal plant retirements and new natural gas-fired power plants, which have lower emissions than a traditional coal plant.

“The bottom line is this: EPA must make certain that its standards do not simply tally reductions that would have already been achieved had the Clean Power Plan not been in place,” Mr. Stewart said. “We are in the midst of a slow-motion crisis of global proportions. The objective here must not be one of doing the minimum necessary to meet some arithmetic goal, but rather one of finding ways to do as much as possible to reduce the severity of the impacts already on their way.”

Deb Nardone, director of the Sierra Club's "beyond natural gas" campaign, spoke in support of the proposal but said it should be improved at the state level so as to better encourage the use of renewable energy, rather than fracking.

"We cannot afford to have baby steps or counterproductive measures," Ms. Nardone said.

But Russ Lorince, vice president of external affairs for Arch Coal, offered harsh criticism of EPA's proposal in testimony late Thursday afternoon, arguing that it would impose "high electricity costs on American households and industry."

Mr. Apt, the astronaut turned professor of technology in CMU's Department of Engineering and Public Policy and the Tepper School of Business, said the carbon rules should spur innovation and reduce emissions of climate-changing gases.

"I teach in a business school and I believe in American industry's ability to innovate when there is a reason to do so," Mr. Apt testified. "We did exactly that in response to the Clean Air Act of 1970. The number of patents filed for sulfur dioxide pollution control technologies increased by a factor of 20 after the regulations. And we profited by selling that technology around the world. EPA's proposed rule will foster innovation and create jobs.

"This proposed rule provides the proper incentives for low-pollution power and the flexibility for states to reduce pollution in sensible ways."

So far, the EPA has received about 300,000 comments during the public comment period. The agency categorizes the comments based on themes, according to Reid Harvey, director of the EPA's Clean Air Market Division.

"We develop responses to the categories of comments. There will be a document in the final rulemaking that will address those. It will be released congruent with the final report."

The morning's hearing session ended as protesters gathered outside the federal building on Liberty Avenue. Environmental activists wearing blue T-shirts with the phrase "climate action now" gathered near Liberty and 10th Street.

Meanwhile, another march supporting coal and union workers wound around the federal

building. Marchers, many wearing shirts or holding signs with United Mine Workers Association logos, chanted “Hey, hey, EPA. Don’t take our jobs away.” Environmental supporters shouted back “No planet, no jobs.”

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the EPA held hearings in Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Denver, on the carbon pollution standards proposed by the agency in June.

Additional information on the EPA Clean Power Plan can be found at www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards.

Read more: http://www.post-gazette.com/breaking/2014/07/31/Pro-and-con-voice-their-views-at-EPA-hearing-on-proposed-pollution-curbs/stories/201407310284#ixzz399BAbLLd

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: Trulove-Cranor, Whitney[Trulove-Cranor.Whitney@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]; McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]; Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Paula
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 11:54:08 PM
Subject: FW: info about response to Udall, Tipton and Comm. Kinkaid

All- Senator Udall, Representative Tipton, Moffat County, CO County Commissioner Kincaid all sent letters to Gina McCarthy requesting a 'public hearing' on the Clean Power Plan in Moffat County, CO (coal country). Jean Walker with OAQPS is starting to draft responses to those letters and asked for our advice on messaging to include Shaun's invitation and acceptance for a public meeting put on by the Moffat County commissioners.

Would like your thoughts about the following draft message in blue below…

From Josh Lewis, OCIR, last week –

"EPA is holding (held) four public hearings at locations across the country--Washington, D.C., Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh. We chose these specific locations in different regions of the country as well as the nation's capital, and that are easily accessible (plane, train and major roads), have federal buildings (in some cases EPA buildings) and had space available during the timeframe we needed. Because of the high level of interest in the public hearings, EPA added a second day at each location. At this time, we are not planning on holding additional public hearings beyond those scheduled next week."

However, RA McGrath has accepted an invitation from Moffat County Commissioner Kinkaid to participate in a public meeting hosted by the county commissioners, to include a panel with diverse interests in the Clean Power Plan. As part of the panel, RA McGrath's role will be to explain the proposed rule, answer questions, and encourage participation in the formal comment process via the website or comment cards. This is not a public hearing or listening session and is sponsored by Moffat County commissioners, not EPA. Dates in September are being considered.

We sincerely hope this answers to your request for an EPA presence in Moffat County. Our staff in Denver heard some excellent comments from Moffat County residents and workforce at the public hearings this week. RA McGrath looks forward to sharing information and encouraging

additional comment at the Moffat County public meeting. Thank you for your inquiry.

Thanks for your thoughts,

Paula J. Smith

Director, Office of Communication and Public Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Phone: 303.312.6630
Cell: 303.882.9550

To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Cc: Smith, Dylan[Smith.Dylan@epa.gov]
From: Durley, Kamari
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 7:41:57 PM
Subject: Pittsburgh Hearing Clip Compilation

Beaver County Times- West Virginia official challenges EPA power plant regulations

Published: Thursday, July 31, 2014 3:00 pm | *Updated: 3:00 pm, Thu Jul 31, 2014.*

By Suzanne Elliott For The Times

PITTSBURGH -- The Environmental Protection Agency's plan to limit carbon emissions from power plants drew harsh criticism from one of West Virginia's top officials Thursday.

"Whether this administration chooses to recognize it or not, the fact is coal powers nearly 40 percent of our electricity in the country. It's not going anywhere," said Natalie Tennant, West Virginia's Secretary of State, during the first day of a two-day public session the EPA is holding on the proposed Clean Power Plan in downtown Pittsburgh.

The hearings continue today. Similar public hearings have been held in Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

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"Trying to squeeze coal out of the energy equation is not only unrealistic, it is dangerous and irresponsible," Tennant said. "There is no reason to pit clean air against good-paying jobs. West Virginia can lead the country in developing advanced coal technology that supports both."

Tennant said the Obama administration should invest more in carbon capture and storage technology to reduce emissions from coal-powered utility plants. She said there is $8 billion from a Department of Energy loan guarantee program that had been earmarked for development

of this technology.

“Not only will this approach strengthen and protect our coal jobs in West Virginia,” Tennant said. “It will create a whole new opportunity for American job growth by developing and perfecting CCS technology and meeting global demand. Work with us, not against us. Instead of attacking coal jobs with regulations, invest in West Virginia and we will deliver the technology to cut emissions without cutting jobs.

“It is not right that we as West Virginians have to take our message to Pennsylvania in order to be heard,” she said. “But, we will not be ignored.”

Tennant was one of more than 90 people from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio who spoke Thursday about the plan. Thursday’s hearing also included testimony from concerned citizens in Michigan and Florida.

Power plants are the largest concentrated source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, making up nearly a third of all domestic greenhouse emissions. There are currently no national limits on carbon pollution issues.

The EPA proposal puts the nation on track to cut carbon pollution by 30 percent by 2030, which equates to 730 million metric tons of carbon pollution, or emissions from 150 million cars. The EPA said the Clean Power Plan has public health and climate benefits worth $55 billion to $93 billion per year in 2030, which would outweigh the $7.3 billion to $8.8 billion that the plan would cost to implement. Reducing exposure to particle pollution and ozone in 2030 will avoid a projected 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths; 145,000 asthma attacks in children; 340 to 3,300 heart attacks, 2,750 hospital admissions and 480,000 missed school or work days.

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“These types of decisions should not be made by elected officials,” Brisini said.

But Ed Perry, an aquatic biologist, said the EPA needs to move quickly on its Clean Power Plan.

“Global warming is here,” said Perry, adding that rising temperatures caused 35 percent loss of the habitat of the brook trout, the state fish. In addition, the state tree, the Eastern Hemlock, has dwindled in numbers because of rising temperatures, he said.

“For 350 months, we have had above average temperatures,” Perry said.

Washington Observer Reporter- Corbett, coal interests rally before EPA hearings

By Joe Mandak
Associated Press
published jul 30, 2014 at 12:20 pm (updated jul 30, 2014 at 10:25 pm)

PITTSBURGH – More than 2,000 union workers and others organized by the coal industry in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia joined top state elected officials Wednesday to rally against proposed stricter federal pollution regulations for coal-burning power plants.

The rally came a day before the Environmental Protection Agency holds public hearings in downtown Pittsburgh. It said its proposed regulations will cut carbon pollution 30 percent by the year 2030. Hearings were held in Atlanta, Denver and Washington Tuesday and Wednesday.

Gov. Tom Corbett, West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor contend the regulations will drive up electricity prices and cut energy jobs, all to reach goals that aren't attainable.

"We don't have the technology today to be able to burn the coal they way that they're proposing," said Tomblin, a Democrat. "We're just simply asking that they back off, work with the states, so that we can come to a compromise, so we can keep you coal miners working, so we can keep this country working."

Corbett, governor of the fourth-largest coal-producing state in the country, argued "clean coal" technologies already developed by energy companies should be given a chance to further cut pollution.

"What are we supposed to do? Abandon it?" Corbett said of clean coal. "I don't think so."

Organized by the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity and the National Miners Association, the rally drew employees of companies such as Consol Energy and rank-and-file miners, steamfitters and boilermakers who contend the new regulations will shut down coal-fired plants and cost them jobs.

"We're here to fight for clean coal. We're here to fight for clean energy. But we're also here to fight for our jobs," said Mark Walters, 49, a member of Pittsburgh Boilermakers Union Local 154.

Most of the workers wore T-shirts with pro-coal messages, including "Stop the war on coal," or a variation of the "Got milk?" slogan: "Got electricity?" Corbett said the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will testify about the state's plan to cut emissions

without cutting jobs or making electricity less reliable. Pennsylvania gets 40 percent of its electricity from coal and Corbett told reporters before the rally, “This is about are we going to have enough electricity in Pennsylvania with these regulations.”

Some environmentalists want even stricter rules than the EPA is proposing and argue that the benefits to the environment – and a boom they predict in jobs relating to more renewable, efficient energy sources – make the regulations a no-brainer.

Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, told reporters this week that the regulations will “release innovation and clean up the air.” She predicted emerging clean-energy businesses will pump up to $93 billion into the nation’s economy each year and create over 275,000 efficiency-related jobs.

But the governors said the regulations are already killing energy-related jobs.
Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy closed two southwestern Pennsylvania plants last fall, and Tomblin said that company and Appalachian Power will take 10 power stations offline in West Virginia next year. Taylor, a Republican like Corbett, said about 20 plants are at risk of closing in Ohio if the regulations are enacted, and added that she doesn’t trust the Obama administration.

Taylor, who also serves as director of Ohio’s Department of Insurance, said the Obama administration promised that the Affordable Care Act would be “flexible” and meet states’ individual needs just like the EPA is saying the new pollution regulation will.

“But their ‘flexibility’ is, ‘Do it our way or not at all,’” Taylor said.

Morgantown Dominion Post- Coal interests rally before hearings

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WDTV 5- Midday Wednesday: Live Coverage Of Pittsburgh EPA Hearing/Rally

Written by Your 5News Team

Last updated on July 31, 2014 @ 9:45AM

Created on July 30, 2014 @ 1:38PM

Several officials from our state are set to join hundreds of coal miners and coal supporters at an electricity and energy jobs rally.
5 News got the chance to talk to Governor Tomblin at the rally Wednesday afternoon about the atmosphere at the rally. "The whole feeling is, that the EPA isn't listening to the people of our state and that's why several states have come together. People are concerned about their jobs, business are concerned about the costs of their electricity in the near future, and this is a way for people to speak out. The fact that tomorrow the EPA will be meeting here in Pittsburgh and taking comment, today they can feel the warm up and see what coal miners look like, and what their facing in their everyday lives," said Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.
Officials say the rally is aimed at raising awareness over proposed changed to federal rules about pollution discharged by coal-fired power plants.
The Environmental Protection Agency's plan aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point.

"Not only does 90% of our energy come from coal in West Virginia, but we export about 60% of that all across the north east, and people need to realize this isn't just a West Virginia or and Ohio, or a Pennsylvania problem, it's an American problem," said Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.

West Virginia is the second-biggest U.S. coal producer after Wyoming. Click the video link above to watch the full interview.

WDTV 5- Capito Testifies at Against EPA's Greenhouse Gas Rule

Written by Lindsey Watson

Last updated on July 31, 2014 @ 12:56PM

Created on July 31, 2014 @ 12:45PM

U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito testified against the agencies Greenhouse Gas Rule at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Washington headquarters Tuesday morning.

“By refusing to come to West Virginia, to Ohio, to Kentucky, you send a message to this part of the country that our views and that our experiences do not matter. To have the federal government refuse to even listen to a segment of the American people is frustrating, demoralizing and frankly insulting,” Rep. Capito said.

Rep. Capito’s full testimony as prepared for delivery is below:

“I am here to express my state’s strong opposition to the proposed greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants. With this unprecedented rule, the EPA has gone far beyond requiring existing coal plants operate as efficiently as possible. Instead, the very framework for this rule is built around shifting the country away from coal. The federal government has no business picking winners and losers in the energy economy, but that’s exactly what the EPA’s new rule would do.

“I’d like to share with you what your new rule would do to my state. If you had come to West Virginia, you would have seen and heard this for yourself. The EPA has held 11 public listening sessions on this rule, not one of which was held in any one of the 10 states that rely most heavily on coal for electricity generation.

“If you had come to West Virginia, you would have heard from coal mining companies and coal miners who depend on this work to feed their families. Like Roger Horton of Logan County, a retired coal miner and UMWA member. When he testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in October, he said the EPA’s policies are ‘condemning [mining families] to lives of poverty and despair.’

“But you also would have heard from the people who don’t work in the mines but directly rely on the industry and its electricity to keep their companies afloat.

“You might have heard from Christian Marsh of Quality Machine, a fabrication and machine manufacturer in Bridgeport. This business used to do most of its work on behalf of the coal industry but has seen a significant drop off in its coal business.

"You might have heard from businesses like Felman Production in Letart or Constellium Rolled Products in Ravenswood – both companies that employ hundreds of West Virginia workers in energy intensive manufacturing. Manufacturing jobs that could be placed in jeopardy by higher electricity prices as a result of this new rule.

"By refusing to come to West Virginia, to Ohio, to Kentucky, you send a message to this part of the country that our views and that our experiences do not matter. To have the federal government refuse to even listen to a segment of the American people is frustrating, demoralizing and frankly insulting.

"My state of West Virginia has already lost 5,000 coal mining jobs between 2012 and 2014. Many more jobs are at risk because of this agency, this president, and regulatory efforts that go far beyond what Congress intended when it passed the Clean Air Act.

"My state of West Virginia, which relies on coal for 95 percent of its electricity, will be one of the biggest losers under the proposed rule, but we are certainly not alone.

"A recent report from the Institute for Energy Research found that electricity prices in West Virginia could increase by more than 50 percent by 2020, even before including the effects of today's proposed rule.

"This rule, which would cause even more coal capacity to be taken offline, would increase energy costs for consumers across the country. We saw this with the European Union's carbon regulations, which increased residential electricity prices by 55 percent between 2005 and 2013.

"The proposed rule will be bad for the American economy, and it will be catastrophic for working families in West Virginia. U.S. households pay half as much for electricity than households in the European Union and a third as much as households in Germany.

"Because of the energy intensive nature of manufacturing, low-cost American energy helps keep jobs in the United States – jobs our economy desperately needs.

"Coal miners and power plant workers aren't the only workers who lose under the proposed rule. Forfeiting our energy advantage will send more American manufacturing jobs overseas and hurt workers all across the economy.

"As our governor has said, not a single coal plant in West Virginia meets the average standard of 1,620 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt hour that would be imposed on the state. While I recognize that doesn't mean that every coal plant would have to close, it also means the closure of a number of coal units would be mandatory.

"Our economy benefits from having a diverse energy mix and an all-of-the-above energy strategy. I want my state to produce both coal and natural gas in order to maximize job opportunities for West Virginians.

“During January and February 2014, 92 percent of the increased demand for energy nationally was met by coal. American Electric Power, which operates in West Virginia and across the Midwest, was operating 89 percent of the coal capacity that will be shut down next year due to other EPA regulations. We will always have periods where energy demand surges. But after this proposed rule and others like it, we will be unable to meet that demand.

“In the House of Representatives, I have worked tirelessly to help the people of West Virginia and to highlight the consequences of this administration’s energy policies on my state. And I’ve continued to invite the EPA to come to West Virginia and hear all sides on this issue. I offered a bipartisan resolution in the calling for the EPA to hold sessions in coal-reliant states. I wrote twice to Administrator McCarthy inviting the agency to come to West Virginia and listen to my constituents. The rule has been proposed, and still the EPA has refused to come.

“I’m here today so that once, if only for five minutes, you, the EPA, are forced to confront the consequences of the agency’s decisions on the people I represent.

“This proposed rule threatens West Virginia’s economic survival. I will continue to lead efforts in Congress to stop this disastrous rule, and I promise you that my state and its people will also fight this proposed rule every step of the way.”

WTRF 7- UPDATE: Coal Supporters Rally in Pittsburgh as EPA Holds Hearings

Posted: Jul 30, 2014 8:09 AM EDTUpdated: Jul 31, 2014 3:18 PM EDT

Hundreds of West Virginia coal miners, coal supporters, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Attorney General Patrick Morrisey were in Pittsburgh on Thursday as the EPA held hearings on greenhouse gas rules.
On Wednesday, supporters joined Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, labor leaders and many others as they held an affordable electricity and energy jobs rally at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh. Wednesday's rally came a day ahead of the EPA hosting public hearings on its recently proposed existing source greenhouse gas rules on Thursday and Friday, and are one of several happening across the country.

Thursday's hearing began at 9 a.m. and took place at the William S. Moorhead Federal building.

During Wednesday's rally, West Virginia Governor Tomblin made the following statement: "Good morning. Thank you, Bill, for the kind introduction and thank you for always standing up for West Virginia coal miners. I'd also like to thank Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, the

Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor of Ohio, the Ohio Coal Association, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, the West Virginia Coal Association, Roger Horton and Citizens for Coal, the West Virginia Business and Industry Council and especially all of you who are here today to show your support for the coal industry in West Virginia and surrounding states. I'm proud to stand with you today as we support our region's coal miners, their families, our seniors and our communities. In today's economy, we should be working together toward energy independence, not allowing un-elected bureaucrats to obstruct our nation's energy production. That's why our state is joining the fight against the EPA's proposed rules to establish unreasonable restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. These ideological policies will not only devastate our region by eliminating jobs, but will unnecessarily increase the cost of power across the country.

If these rules are put into place, there is no question - none - electricity rates will skyrocket. It means our manufacturers may again be forced to look overseas for reasonable electric rates - taking with them good paying jobs to countries that do not allow bureaucratic agencies to mandate unilateral restrictions on power production. These rate increases would become an unfair unreasonable financial burden on hardworking people by taking money out of their pockets and causing damaging consequences to our state and national economies.

Since the proposed rules were introduced in June, we have been told states will have flexibility to meet these new standards but the EPA's renewable energy goal for West Virginia - an increase of 600 percent - is simply unattainable. Cost-competitive renewable energy is not available in our state. The EPA must establish goals based on actual available resources and technology, not far-fetched benchmarks.

According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States is losing 60 gigawatts of coal-powered electricity as a result of the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards, which represented 19 percent of coal capacity at the end of 2012. In addition to these closures, an additional 15 percent reduction in coal plant output challenges our nation's power grid to meet national energy needs and restricts electricity export opportunities in the nation's coal-producing regions.

Since 2005, CO2 emissions in the United States have dropped 12.6 percent while CO2 emissions in China and India have increased by 67 percent and 53 percent, respectively. The only other major country to reduce emissions during the same time period was Canada.

According to the Energy Information Agency, coal will be the world's leading source of energy, surpassing oil by 2035. The rationale for EPA's continued focus on U.S. coal-fired power plants must be disputed and contested. There are many academic and economic arguments against these proposed rules and we will continue to make that case. But I must tell you; this issue is extremely personal for me.

Growing up in the heart of coal country and as a proud son of the West Virginia coalfields, who continues to make his home there, I see the faces behind these numbers. When the EPA forces mines to close, I know the men and women who lose their jobs, the families who are at risk of losing their homes and the sons and daughters forced to move away to find work.

Those West Virginians are the real reason I continue to stand up to the EPA - to be their voice and share their struggles with those who need to hear them. We can and must do better for our communities and our families. Thank you."

Kamari Durley

Office of Press Secretary Intern

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: (202) 564-2865

durley.kamari@epa.gov

To: Smith, Roxanne[Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: Levy, Jeffrey[Levy.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Younes, Lina
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 7:01:02 PM
Subject: FW: Scheduled social media in English and Spanish for July 31, 2014
073114 Soc Media Schedule Eng and Sp.xlsx

Here's the attached spreadsheet.

Lina Younes

Multilingual Communications Liaison

Office of Web Communications

US Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC 20460

202-564-9924

Visit EPA's Spanish portal at www.epa.gov/espanol

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From: Younes, Lina
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Smith, Roxanne; Allen, Laura; Lee, Monica
Cc: Levy, Jeffrey; OWC
Subject: Scheduled social media in English and Spanish for July 31, 2014

Time	Content	Channel
8:00AM	Things are heating up, and heat exhaustion can be a real problem. Share your tips, tricks, & pics of how you're staying cool using #EPAtips.	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
8:05AM	Summer's fun, but extreme heat can be dangerous, especially for sensitive people like children or the elderly. http://go.usa.gov/9yBB	Twitter, Spanish

		TW
08:30AM	We'll have 1600 speakers at our #CleanPowerPlan hearings, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Here's how to comment: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Spanish TW
9:00AM	Our top 100 #EPAGreenPower Partners are using over 23,000,000,000 kWh of clean, renewable energy annually. http://1.usa.gov/H7tJR	Twitter, Spanish TW
9:30AM	All of the speaker slots are filled up for our Clean Power Plan hearings. We want to hear from you, though, at: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
10:00AM	Do you have an emergency drinking water plan? Download our guide in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, or Vietnamese. http://go.usa.gov/5FDV	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
10:30AM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
10:45AM	Is your favorite retailer, school, or tech company a top #EPAGreenPower Partner? Find out here: http://1.usa.gov/H7tJR	Twitter
11:00AM	Check out the science behind composting, which greatly reduces methane released by wasted food. http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
11:30AM	Did you know we have over 65,000 digital and 1,500 print documents that you can get for free? www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB
11:35AM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:05PM	Are you asthmatic? Check the air quality index before going outside. www.airnow.gov	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:30PM	Americans send 35M tons of food to landfills each year. Reduce your food waste & your grocery bill w/ our easy tips! http://go.usa.gov/XafB	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:35PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
1:00PM	Being our administrator is no average job! Sneak a peek at a day in the life of Gina McCarthy. http://go.usa.gov/9CCB	Twitter
1:30PM	Need educational, technical or scientific materials? We've got thousands of documents that you can get for free. www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
1:35PM	Have some thoughts on our proposed Clean Power Plan? We want to hear from you: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
2:00PM	We successfully banned most uses of a household pesticide called Dursban on June 1, 2000. http://go.usa.gov/9hb3 #EPAhistory	Twitter, Google+, FB
2:30PM	How to submit your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
3:00PM	Our top 100 Green Power Partners are using over 23,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable energy annually.	Google+, FB

3:30PM	We want to hear everyone's comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan. Here's how to submit yours: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
4:00PM	Working outdoors? Don't get too hot! Share your tips and tricks for preventing heat exhaustion using #EPAtips.	Twitter, Google+, FB
4:30PM	We'll have 1600 speakers at our #CleanPowerPlan hearings, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Here's how to comment: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
5:30PM	All of the speaker slots are filled up for our Clean Power Plan hearings. We want to hear from you, though, at: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
6:30PM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
7:30PM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
8:30PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
9:00PM	Being out in the sun can get exhausting ... and cause heat exhaustion. Share your tips for staying safe during hot weather using #EPAtips.	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB

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To: Smith, Roxanne[Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: Levy, Jeffrey[Levy.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Younes, Lina
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 6:58:39 PM
Subject: Scheduled social media in English and Spanish for July 31, 2014

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10:30AM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
10:45AM	Is your favorite retailer, school, or tech company a top #EPAGreenPower Partner? Find out here: http://1.usa.gov/H7tJR	Twitter
11:00AM	Check out the science behind composting, which greatly reduces methane released by wasted food. http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
11:30AM	Did you know we have over 65,000 digital and 1,500 print documents that you can get for free? www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB
11:35AM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:05PM	Are you asthmatic? Check the air quality index before going outside. www.airnow.gov	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:30PM	Americans send 35M tons of food to landfills each year. Reduce your food waste & your grocery bill w/ our easy tips! http://go.usa.gov/XafB	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:35PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
1:00PM	Being our administrator is no average job! Sneak a peek at a day in the life of Gina McCarthy. http://go.usa.gov/9CCB	Twitter

1:30PM	Need educational, technical or scientific materials? We've got thousands of documents that you can get for free. www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
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To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Smith, Dylan[Smith.Dylan@epa.gov]
From: Durley, Kamari
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 6:24:03 PM
Subject: Pittsburgh Hearing Clips

CBS Local Pittsburgh- About A Dozen Arrests Made During EPA Rally & Protest

July 31, 2014 1:51 PM

John Shumway

PITTSBURGH (KDKA) –- Pittsburgh Police made about a dozen arrests Thursday afternoon when opposing groups rallied and protested outside the Federal Building in response to the Environmental Protection Agency holding hearings on new carbon emission standards.

Earlier in the afternoon, the police spoke to both sides, and it seemed as though the afternoon would go peacefully.

Members of the Sierra Club and others who believe the new carbon emission standards will help the environment told police all they wanted was to be able to get to the hearing at 1 p.m., when their people were going to be testifying.

The mine workers, who believe the new standards will kill jobs, said they just wanted their permitted right to walk. They did go on their march, but when they arrived in front of the front doors of the Federal Building, a number of workers sat down to try to block the steps.

It appeared to be a planned movement, although members of the United Mine Workers had previously stated they would not block people from the opposing group from getting into the building.

All the arrests made were from the union workers' group.

About 4,000 to 5,000 union members — including members of UMW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Boilermakers — were at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center and were expected to participate in the march.

Prior to the march, Mayor Bill Peduto talked about the city's efforts to try to avoid any conflict between the groups.

"We're set not only with our own local police, but all the way up to federal-level to be able to protect and allow people to have their First Amendment rights to express themselves," Peduto

said. “So, our police are working with other levels of police, and hopefully this is an opportunity for both sides to get their messages out, but to keep it safe for all.”

Regarding whether there would be any attempts to keep the two groups away from one another, Peduto said, “There are no physical barriers on that, and I don’t know if constitutionally we’d be permitted to do so. I just would hope that both sides would be respectful of each others’ opinions.”

The EPA will be going until 8 p.m. Thursday and returning Friday for another public hearing on this controversial measure that they’re considering.

COAL SUPPORTERS RALLY

By Times Leader

Courtesy of the Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Dave Spencer had to get up pretty early Wednesday morning to make the three-and-a-half hour drive from Buffalo, N.Y., to Pittsburgh to participate in Wednesday's Rally to Support American Energy at Highmark Stadium.

Throughout the morning, Spencer and thousands of miners, boilermakers and others whose jobs depend on the coal industry arrived by the busload at Station Square to make their feelings known in advance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's two-day public hearing in Pittsburgh concerning proposed limits on greenhouse gas emissions, set to begin today.

Spencer said he and co-workers Dan DeCarlo, Jim Sikorski and Jim Raab had a very simple reason for making the trip:

"Our livelihood, you know," Spencer said. "We're affected a lot by this."

After country music artist Chris Higbee spent almost an hour getting the crowd fired up, it was time to get down to business. Several of Wednesday's speakers said the EPA is placing unachievable demands on the coal and power industries at a time when those industries have made great strides in reducing their impact on the environment.

West Virginia Coal Association Vice President Chris Hamilton - noting the coal industry has

reduced carbon emissions by 90 percent nationwide over the last 25 years - said it's ironic that coal miners are "being punished for a job well done."

"I simply say no - hell, no! ... It's not your heads stuck in the sand, it's their heads stuck somewhere else," Hamilton said, prompting a chorus of cheers.

The Mountain State was well-represented at Tuesday's rally, with speakers including Hamilton, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and West Virginia Coal Association President Bill Raney each taking a turn at the podium.

The message was clear: Coal isn't going down without a fight.

Tomblin, who pledged to stand with the coal industry "to the very end," recalled the frigid temperatures of the past winter which had many power generating stations running at more than 90 percent capacity. If more plants are shuttered as a result of tightening regulations, he said, those that remain may not be able to keep up next time.

"Where is that electricity going to come from? There are going to be people sitting in the cold. The lights may not come on," Tomblin said.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett said it was the hard work of coal miners that helped make the steel that built Pittsburgh and helped America become a world power.

"Look across the river," Corbett said, gesturing toward the downtown Pittsburgh skyline behind him. "You know who made that? You did. ... We need you to help us take the message to Washington that we truly need an all of the above - and below the ground - energy policy in the United States."

Many in the crowd, however, don't believe Washington is listening.

"I think it's a joke, I'm not going to lie," said P.J. DeLuca, a miner at Rosebud Mining Co.'s Freeport mine, of the EPA hearings.

But William Kovacs, an 85-year-old military veteran who spent decades working as a welder/fabricator for the railroad industry before his 1991 retirement, took a more optimistic view.

"This will shake 'em up," Kovacs said as he looked out at the growing crowd gathering in front of the stage.

After enduring a good-natured chorus of boos after professing her allegiance to the Cleveland Browns, Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor brought the Steel City crowd back around to her side by finding some common ground.

"We support you, we support your work and we support your families," Taylor said.

Defenders of the EPA rules tout its flexibility in setting state-specific standards but leaving it up to the states to craft plans to meet them. But Taylor said she's heard similar promises from the Obama administration before, particularly concerning the Affordable Care Act.

"I've seen the movie before. I can tell you it doesn't end well for us. ... It's going to have an impact not only on you, but on every Ohioan and every American," Taylor said.

The first session of the Pittsburgh hearings begins at 9 a.m. at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building on Liberty Avenue downtown. The EPA will hear comments until 8 p.m., with a similar schedule on Friday.

More than 360 people pre-registered to speak over the two-day affair, including Jennifer Garrison, a Democrat congressional candidate for Ohio's 6th District, and Belmont County Commissioner Matt Coffland.

Testifying before the EPA Wednesday as public hearings in Washington, D.C., wrapped up were Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va.

The reality, Manchin said, is that global warming exists and fossil fuels will continue to be a part of the nation's energy portfolio - and there are too many "deniers" on both sides of the issue. He said the administration needs to work as an ally with industry, not as an adversary, to continue developing clean-coal technology.

"If we get these rules wrong and miss the opportunities before us, we'll compromise reliability and lose the low-priced energy needed to grow our economy. We won't deploy technologies that will enable us to use coal cleaner now and in the future. American ingenuity should be harnessed right now - not restrained - to ensure our future at home, and to be a leader for the world," Manchin said.

McKinley said the families who are becoming casualties on what he called the Obama administration's war on coal need a voice.

"These are small towns. If you shut down a coal mine or a power plant, you shut down an entire community. In many places these are the only good jobs available. There are real consequences to this anti-coal agenda," McKinley said. "Of course, we all want clean air and fresh water. But we need to achieve it in a way that doesn't impose a crushing cost on hardworking American families."

PGH City Paper- EPA Carbon-Emissions Hearings

Posted By Bill O'Driscoll on Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 2:09 PM

Here's a dispatch from the first two hours of this week's public hearings on a **proposed rule** to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Pittsburgh is one of four cities hosting hearings, and so many people signed up to speak that the EPA added a second day of all-day hearings — and then added a second *room* for each of those sessions in Downtown's William S. Moorhead Federal Building. The rule is the first national attempt to limit emissions of carbon, the main greenhouse gas behind climate change.

For much of the morning, the 13th-floor hearing room was crowded by a few dozen guys in the green-camo T-shirts of the United Mine Workers union, which opposes the EPA's Clean Power Plan. But of the first 24 speakers to address the hearing panel, 17 supported the plan. Several, including representatives of the National Wildlife Federation and the American Lung Association, even called for stronger regulations.

Because coal is the source of 75 percent of all carbon emissions from U.S. power plants, the Clean Power Plan would in effect restrict how much coal we can burn. Supporters argued that in addition to helping slow climate change, the new rules would reduce other air pollutants of the sort that lead to asthma, for instance — as well as lessening the dangers posed by rising temperatures and fiercer storms. Several spoke of a "moral obligation" to address climate change.

"It is an ethical decision as to whether we leave our children a living earth or an earth that has been devastated by fossil-fuel combustion," said Patricia DeMarco, a visiting researcher at Carnegie Mellon University.

And Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper told the panel, "Reducing carbon emissions is a matter of public health."

The Clean Power Plan requires each state to craft its own plan to cut carbon emissions, with the goal of reducing emissions by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. A few state-level officials from Pennsylvania and West Virginia also addressed the panel.

Vince Brisini, who heads the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, said, "Pennsylvania does support efforts to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions." The statement was not unsurprising, given that the Corbett administration has at times **questioned whether climate change is real**. But Brisini spoke against the Clean Power Plan, saying it was too restrictive and that the EPA's promise that the Clean Power Plan gives states flexibility of implementation is "illusory."

West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant said that under the proposed rules, coal miners would lose their jobs and their pensions. She also complained about the siting of the hearings, too far from her state's coal fields. "The White House and the EPA have chosen to snub West

Virginia," she said.

The morning's most novel arguments also came from two opponents of the Clean Power Plan. According to Dennis Simmers, of Cambria Township, and West Virginia State Rep. Cindy Frich, we can't do anything to harm the coal industry because we need a thriving coal industry to protect us … from the ill effects of coal.

Simmers spoke about the burning of waste coal, the stuff that for most of the 20th century mining companies left in huge piles in places like Western Pennsylvania because it was too low-energy to burn. Now some power plants do burn it, reducing those piles, with their smell, their dust and their toxic runoff. Simmers fears the Clean Power Plan would end that practice.

Simmers and his two daughters attended the hearing in black T-shirts reading, "Waste coal is not a waste. It's energy online, all the time." He praised the efforts of coal-fired plants in eliminating the big piles near his home in Revloc, Pa. "Waste-coal fire power is the very definition of environmental stewardship," he said.

Opponents of burning waste coal say that combusting it is even dirtier than burning conventional coal, and doesn't reduce the waste tonnage by much.

Then there was Frich, a Republican who represents the Morgantown area. "These rules are an existential threat to my state," she said. She argued, in part, that coal companies had to be protected because they're the ones currently paying to remediate the waterways coal companies spent the past century or so polluting.

Frich also shared her doubts about climate change. "I'm confused how these rules protect public health and safety," she said. "I find it hard to understand how carbon is a pollutant," she added.

Frich went so far as to say the Clean Power Plan would cripple the nation. "Why would a country do this to themselves? Why?" she said. "I believe this is economic suicide," she added. "It is going to impact on national security in a very grave manner."

Coincidentally, Frich spoke this morning just after **Jonathan Breed**, a Navy veteran and adjunct fellow at think tank the American Security Project who spoke in support of the Clean Power Plan. Breed said the real national-security concern would be to *ignore* climate change. "The United States can no longer wait to confront **the threats posed by climate change**," he told the panel. Breed said that the pressures of drought and extreme weather globally can lead to political instability and even incite terrorism. He added that the U.S. military began looking at climate change as a security threat a decade ago.

Other opponents of the new rules raised fears of skyrocketing energy prices and even power shortages. For such reasons, "We can't afford" to take coal plants off line, said Michel G. Moffatt, who's running for a seat in the West Virginia legislature. "Coal is West Virginia," he added.

Meanwhile, several supporters of the Clean Power Plan noted at the hearing that even without it,

we’re halfway to achieving its goal of reducing carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. (The reasons include decreased consumption and a move to cheaper natural gas, which emits less carbon when burned than does coal.) Speakers including Shannon Fisk, of the nonprofit Earthjustice, said a 40 percent reduction in emissions by 2020 is achievable, and more in line with what’s needed to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

The EPA hearings continue until 8 p.m. tonight, and from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. tomorrow.

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Subject: Daily Caller - Coal Miners Fight To Save Their Jobs At EPA Carbon Rule Field Hearings

Daily Caller - Coal Miners Fight To Save Their Jobs At EPA Carbon Rule Field Hearings

1:42 PM 07/31/2014

Thousands of coal supporters and environmentalists flocked to Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. to testify before the Environmental Protection Agency on a new rule that could severely cripple the U.S. coal industry.

For many coal miners present, this was a chance to express their frustrations with EPA's regulatory agenda, which has forced the premature shutdown of hundreds of coal plants and mines around the country.

"In the end, most people here will not wonder or care what happens to my wife and kids if I no longer have a job," Walter Parker, a life-long coal miner and union member, told EPA officials in Atlanta.

"No one will care until the money runs out and the government … which is killing our jobs, must pay the price of unemployment benefits, welfare and public assistance, which is running rampant in our country today," Parker continued, tearing up as he went on.

A similar scene occurred at EPA hearings in Denver and Pittsburgh, where coal miners and coal country officials stressed the social and economic impacts of shifting the U.S. away from coal power through executive fiat.

"The environmental extremists' war on coal is really a war on prosperity," Moffat County

Commissioner John Kinkaid told EPA officials in Denver. Kinkaid represents a coal-heavy area of Western Colorado, where mines contribute $428 million a tear to the local economy.

“This isn’t some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of Northwest Colorado. To us, this is personal,” Kinkaid said.

More than 2,000 pro-coal union members rallied ahead of the EPA’s field hearing in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Union members and miners were joined by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, a Republican, and West Virginia’s Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

“We’re here to fight for clean coal. We’re here to fight for clean energy. But we’re also here to fight for our jobs,” Mark Walters, a member of Boilermakers Union Local 154, told WTAE Action News.

Up to 5,000 coal miners with the United Mine Workers of America and their families are expected to rally outside the EPA field hearings on Thursday in opposition to the EPA’s new rules.

“This is not the democracy that people went to two World Wars, fought in Vietnam, fought in Korea (for),” Cecil Roberts, UMWA president, told MetroNews. “This is not the democracy that we thought we had.”

The EPA’s new rule, proposed in June, would force states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants 30 percent by 2030. Different states would have to meet different emissions reductions goals through either increasing power plant efficiency, using more natural gas and less coal, using more green energy or reducing energy demand.

The coal industry, however, would be heavily impacted by these rules and argues that electricity prices will go up as coal plants are taken offline.

“Coal is the backbone for reliable low-cost power,” Vic Svec, senior vice president of global investor and corporate relations at the coal company Peabody Energy, told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

“The state of California gets no power from coal and electricity prices are 62 percent above prices in states like Missouri where they get 80 percent of their power from coal,” Svec added. ”The EPA also ignores the health and human suffering that comes from driving up costs of such a staple product.”

Environmentalists, however, have been aggressively pushing the EPA’s new power plant rule as a necessary step in the fight against global warming. Environmentalist activists flooded the EPA field hearings to try and drown out pro-coal voices.

“We applaud the EPA’s Clean Power Plan and will work to make it even stronger because this new standard for carbon pollution gives my daughter, and all today’s kids, a fighting chance at a safe and promising future,” Mary Anne Hitt, national director of Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign, told EPA officials at the Atlanta field hearing.

Of the 1,600 people slated to testify before the EPA at all its field hearings, 36 percent self-identified as part of an environmental group, according to EPA lists.

But while eco-activists were present at all four field hearings, their presence was most pronounced in Washington, D.C. where about 50 percent of the 404 people slated to testify over two days were affiliated with environmental groups.

Environmentalists made up 34 percent of the 477 listed speakers in Denver and activists made up 36 percent of the 405 speakers listed in Atlanta during the two-day field hearing. In Pittsburgh, environmentalists had their worst showing, with only 26 percent of the 369 speakers stating affiliations with green groups.

Despite environmentalist pressures, coal miners and the coal industry are still fighting back, urging the Obama administration ditch the rule that would do nothing to combat global warming.

“I am proud that I have been able to take care of my family because of the work I do. I am proud to be a miner,” Parker told the EPA at the Atlanta field hearing. “I have never asked for handouts from the people around me or from the government. I want to pay my own way. I want to work. I feel pride in my work. I want to be able to continue my profession and produce coal to power this nation. And I’m sorry that I get emotional, but I can’t help it.”

“In the end, I don’t see the Agency’s proposed policy as a real solution,” Parker added. “We will lose what we have worked for all of our lives and our communities will struggle in poverty. How can the EPA call this a success story?”

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Subject: NPR- Pittsburgh Hosts Hearing on EPA's New Greenhouse Gas Proposals

NPR- Pittsburgh Hosts Hearing on EPA's New Greenhouse Gas Proposals

JULY 31, 2014 | 9:00 AM

BY SUSAN PHILLIPS

As coal is poured into a waiting barge, smoke billows from a coal powered electric plant August 26, 2001 in western, PA.

Global warming and climate change will be what everyone is talking about at a hearing today in Pittsburgh. The public forum is one of four meetings taking place across the country this week as the Environmental Protection Agency seeks input on their newly proposed rules to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power plants. But these hearings are just the first step in a controversial move by the EPA that will likely end up challenged in the courts. Here's what you need to know about how it may impact Pennsylvania.

Why now?

For those seeking to stem the tide of climate change, these proposals are a long time coming. In 2007, the Supreme Court gave the EPA the green light to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Three years later, in 2010, a comprehensive climate change bill died in Congress. But Obama is committed to doing something about global warming before he leaves office in 2016. So last month the President proposed his Clean Power Plan with the goal of reducing carbon emissions from the country's power plants by 30 percent by 2030.

The Obama Administration says tackling carbon dioxide emissions at power plants is important because these electrical generating facilities account for more than a third of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA used a complicated formula designed to take each state's energy mix into account, along with their CO2 emission rates using 2012 as a baseline.

Pennsylvania's CO2 Target

Pennsylvania's CO2 emission rates from power plants in 2012 was about 106 million metric tons. The amount of energy produced from these plants was about 151 terawatt hours. So the state's baseline emission rate based on 2012 data is 1,540 pounds/megawatt hour. Under EPA's proposal, Pennsylvania needs to develop a plan to cut its carbon dioxide emissions to 1,052

pounds per megawatt hour in 2030. That comes out to a 32 percent reduction. Some states are lower and some are higher.

The EPA says it wants to be as flexible as possible, giving the states as many options as it can to meet that target by 2030. State options are divided into what the Agency calls four separate "building blocks." These include – making fossil fuel plants more efficient, replacing coal plants with lower carbon dioxide emitting natural gas, adding renewables and nuclear power, and energy conservation by consumers.

It's up to the Department of Environmental Protection to create a plan. The DEP put out a**white paper** before the EPA's proposals were announced, but would not answer questions about it. The DEP is expected to testify at the hearing on Thursday. On Wednesday, Governor Tom Corbett attended a rally against the EPA's plan, claiming it will kill jobs in the state's coal mines.

"In Pennsylvania, nearly 63,000 men and women work in jobs supported by the coal industry," Corbett said. "Anything that seeks to or has the effect of shutting down coal-fired power plants is an assault on Pennsylvania jobs, consumers, and those citizens who rely upon affordable, abundant domestic energy.

Pennsylvania is in a unique position because it has such a diverse energy portfolio and produces more than its residents use. The break down of energy production in Pennsylvania still favors coal at 39 percent, but that could change under these rules because coal is one of the greatest emitters of CO2. Nuclear energy, which does not emit carbon dioxide, contributes about 33 percent to the state's energy mix. Natural gas, which emits less carbon dioxide than coal, and is cheaper than nuclear, makes up about 24 percent of electricity production. Carbon-free renewables account for about 2 percent.

Winners and Losers

So if coal is the loser in these proposals, natural gas could be the winner. With state officials caught between these two influential fossil fuel industries – coal and natural gas – environmentalists fear the DEP will simply choose natural gas over the other two building blocks; improving energy efficiency or investments in alternative energy.

Joe Minott is the executive director of the Clean Air Council.

"Clearly Pennsylvania is going to look after coal," says Minott. "They're going to look after natural gas. But that doesn't mean they have to do that at the expense of promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy. But I suspect that they're going to do whatever they can to protect the fossil fuel industry."

One dangerous greenhouse gas that the EPA is not proposing to regulate, at least for now, is methane. Methane has much more powerful warming effects but does not survive in the atmosphere as long as CO2. It takes about 12 years for it to break down into CO2 and H2O, while CO2 itself remains in the atmosphere for decades. Some are pushing for methane

emissions to get more attention from regulators.

Questioning Authority

While states are left to carve out their own path toward carbon dioxide reductions, powerful national interests are opposing the EPA's plan.

Scott Segal, executive director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, says the EPA is trying to fit a square peg into a round hole by using the Clean Air Act to combat climate change.

"The EPA is attempting to do what has never been done under the 40 years of precedent under the Clean Air Act," said Segal.

Segal represents utilities that rely heavily on coal to produce their electricity. Segal says despite the EPA's claim, the plan is not flexible. He says the way the Agency structured the building blocks may hamstring states into getting rid of coal plants. And he says the loss of coal plants would threaten the reliability of the electrical grid during severe cold or severe hot weather.

"Power needs to be dispatched to consumers based on whatever is cheapest," said Segal. "My rates have to be reasonable and my rates have to be just. That's the law. Well the agency in one fell swoop is trying to change that and saying they want us to dispatch electricity by order of carbon. There is no mechanism to do that. It's just a breathtaking assertion of authority."

The authority Segal questions comes from a little used section of the Clean Air Act known as 111d. This part of the Act is basically a catch-all that grants EPA the authority to set standards on existing sources of air pollutants that don't come under any other air quality standard.

The Clean Air Act was originally written to regulate pollutants that have immediate, localized public health impacts. Things like smog or particulate matter. Things that cause childhood asthma, or lung cancer. Now the EPA is using a segment of the Clean Air Act to regulate the much more global threat of climate change. The hearings this week are just the start to what may turn out to be protracted legal battles over the rules and EPA's authority.

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Subject: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- Pro and con voice their views at EPA hearings on proposed pollution curbs

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- Pro and con voice their views at EPA hearings on proposed pollution curbs

July 31, 2014 11:00 AM

By Don Hopey / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's controversial proposed curbs on carbon pollution will get a full public airing in Pittsburgh today and Friday in testimony offered by more than 270 individuals.

Patricia DeMarco, a biologist and Senior Scholar of Chatham University who holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University, was first to offer testimony this morning. Harold Hoem, of the Montana Elders for a Livable Tomorrow is last on the list Friday evening.

Signed up for testimony in between are 22 members of the United Mine Workes of America, 15 Sierra Club leaders or members, eight international Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union members, three members of the Mom's Clean Air Force, two coal companies, and a former astronaut, Jay Apt, now flying in Carnegie Mellon University's orbit.

The hearings on what the EPA calles the "Clean Power Plan" are being held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, Room 1310, at 1000 Liberty Ave., Downtown. Pre-registration to testify is closed, but the EPA said individuals can still register on site to testify and submit written comments until Oct. 16.

Ms. DeMarco said the transition from a fossil-fueled energy system to a renewable-energy-powered economy is the best way to abate the impacts of climate-changing gas emissions.

"While the change from an energy system entrenched for 200 years seems daunting," she said, "the consequences of continuing this pattern of energy use are surely devastating both to the atmosphere and to the fresh water system, for us and especially for our children and their grandchildren."

But Vincent Brisini, deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's office of waste, air and radiation protection, said the carbon rule's flexibility touted

by federal officials is illusionary, and added that the EPA's decisions on social and economic outcomes should be made by elected officials.

John Pippy, chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, the industry trade organization, said the proposed rules are "an attempt to transform the American energy supply away from coal."

Kathy Dahlkemper, the Erie County executive, called the rules a "common sense, flexible, achievable plan to reduce carbon emissions," and would benefit the one in five children in the state with asthma.

She also said it's an opportunity for the nation to display leadership on climate change.

"It's an important first step," she said," that demonstrates the U.S. is resolute in addressing this issue."

Different views are also on display outside the hearing room. Competing rallies and marches are scheduled outside the hearing location today. At 11 a.m., in the August Wilson Center on Liberty Avenue, Downtown, Mayor Bill Peduto will headline a news conference by carbon standards supporters, followed by a rally. And at noon, 70 busloads of coal miners and supporters opposed to the standards will march from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to the hearing site.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the EPA held hearings in Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Denver, on the carbon pollution standards proposed by the agency in June. The standards, would cut carbon emissions from power plants -- the single largest source of carbon pollution that contributes to climate change -- by 30 percent from 2005 levels, but sets individual goals for states and allows them to craft policies to reach their particular reduction goal.

The proposal requires a 32 percent reduction of carbon pollution from Pennsylvania power plants by 2030 from 2012 levels. Pennsylvania power plants put out 48 percent of the state's carbon pollution, according to the EPA.

Airborne particle emissions would also be reduced by the rule by more than 25 percent, according to the EPA, while providing up to $93 billion in climate and public health benefits. Those health benefits in 2030 include avoidance of an estimated 6,600 premature deaths, 150,000 childhood asthma attacks, and 490,000 missed days of work or school.

The rules will not be finalized until next year and expected legal challenges from the electric power, coal industry and even some states could delay implementation for years.

Environmental and public health organizations generally support the rules as a necessary first step, though some have said they do not go far enough.

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Subject: Pittsburgh Hearing Clips

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- Adoption of the EPA's new pollution rule will cost Pennsylvania jobs

July 31, 2014 12:00 AM

Starting today, the Environmental Protection Agency is holding public hearings in Pittsburgh regarding a proposed rule for greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. This far-reaching "climate rule" is going to drive up the cost of energy in Pennsylvania and in every state in America, a fact that even President Barack Obama has acknowledged. Everyone will pay a price for it — families, businesses, retirees — anyone who uses electricity.

Manufacturers, including producers of products such as steel, cement and transportation fuels, will also be hurt. These industries prosper in Pennsylvania where coal-based power plants providing low-cost electricity make up about 40 percent of our state's energy mix.

Policies that hurt American manufacturing also hurt American workers. The United Mine Workers of America estimates that job losses from EPA's climate rule could reach 208,221 by 2025.

For Pennsylvania, the stakes are high. The EPA's proposed rule will remove low-cost and reliable electricity and replace it with more expensive and less reliable sources. A different policy is needed that supports all forms of energy, including coal, to keep affordable and reliable electricity for Pennsylvania industry, workers and families.

Let's hope our state government prevents the EPA from raising our utility bills and lowering our standard of living for years to come.

Logan Banner- W.Va. fights for coal

Last updated: July 31. 2014 2:30AM

By Karissa Blackburn - kblackburn@civitasmedia.com

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin joined West Virginia miners, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and others Wednesday for a Rally to Support American Energy. The rally was held in response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public hearing for the proposed Clean Power Plan rule scheduled in Pittsburgh Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1.

Two busses transported locals to the rally as well. Those in attendance included: Logan Mayor Serafino Nolletti, Man Mayor Jim Blevins, Senator Art Kirkendoll , Senator Ron Stollings, Delegate Rupie Phillips, members of Citizens for Coal and many more.

Governor Tomblin started the day with a bold statement: the EPA's proposed standards are simply unattainable.

"Today's rally gives us an opportunity to come together and explain the EPA should be working with us toward energy independence, not mandating unilateral restrictions on our nation's energy production," Tomblin said. "That's why our state is joining the fight against the EPA's proposed rules to establish unreasonable restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. These ideological policies will not only devastate our region by eliminating jobs, but will unnecessarily increase the cost of power across the country."

The EPA has been conducting a series of hearings this week – in Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Denver, Colorado; and Washington, D.C. – on its proposed carbon emissions rule that would negatively affect the burning of coal at America's power plants. Pittsburgh's hearing is set for today and tomorrow.

Congressman Nick Rahall spoke up at the rally, angry that the EPA has ignored W.Va. yet again.

"The EPA has skipped right over coal country," Rahall said. "And, in doing so, the EPA is missing out on the whole truth. We refuse to be overlooked. I will not allow us to be forgotten. But this EPA – this biased, anti-coal, geography-challenged EPA – has no plans to step foot in coal country. I have extended invitations. We all have pleaded and prodded. But that mountain is never coming to us. So, we, from coal country, have no choice but to take our message to the mountain."

And they did just that. Thousands of coal miners from around the nation, including hundreds from W.Va. attended the rally on Wednesday to make their voices heard. They refuse to be bullied by the EPA.

"If these rules are put into place, there is no question - none - electricity rates will skyrocket,"

Tomblin said. “It means our manufacturers may again be forced to look overseas for reasonable electric rates - taking with them good paying jobs to countries that do not allow bureaucratic agencies to mandate unilateral restrictions on power production. These rate increases would become an unfair unreasonable financial burden on hardworking people by taking money out of their pockets and causing damaging consequences to our state and national economies.”

According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States is losing 60 gigawatts of coal-powered electricity as a result of the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards, which represented 19 percent of coal capacity at the end of 2012. In addition to these closures, an additional 15 percent reduction in coal plant output challenges our nation’s power grid to meet national energy needs and restricts electricity export opportunities in the nation’s coal-producing regions.

“Growing up in the heart of coal country and as a proud son of the West Virginia coalfields, who continues to make his home there, I see the faces behind these numbers,” Tomblin said. “When the EPA forces mines to close, I know the men and women who lose their jobs, the families who are at risk of losing their homes and the sons and daughters forced to move away to find work.”

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey believes the solution is for coal miners around the nation to band together. “I think it is critical that the states of West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania form a united front against the EPA’s burdensome and illegal proposed regulation on existing power plants,” Morrisey said. “This shouldn’t be an issue of Democrat versus Republican; all three states are deeply dependent upon coal and the use of coal to power our economy, and not one of the states will emerge from these regulations unscathed. We must ensure that the EPA and the Obama Administration know that we are watching them, and we will fight this illegal regulation in any way we can.”

Morrisey challenged the EPA even further, asking it to withdraw its proposed rule immediately or look forward to a strong, legal opposition.

“We [AGs] are the last line of defense against a federal government that seems to believe the rule of law does not apply to it,” Morrisey said.

But the greatest moment of the day came at the end of Governor Tomblin’s speech. Tomblin recognizes the hard work and dedication coal miners put in. He realizes the necessity of coal for W.Va. and America’s economic well-being. And he knows that it is time to give credit where credit is due.

“Those West Virginians are the real reason I continue to stand up to the EPA - to be their voice and share their struggles with those who need to hear them,” Tomblin said. “We can and must do better for our communities and our families.”

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Subject: Denver Hearing Clip Compilation

Please find below a listing of the clips I was able to find concerning the Denver hearings. Thanks!

Power Mag- EPA Public Hearing on Carbon Pollution Standards Draws More "Public" than Power Industry Speakers

07/30/2014 | Gail Reitenbach

Interest in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) carbon pollution standards for existing power plants—the "Clean Power Plan," proposed under the authority of the Clean Air Act Section 111(d)—was so high that the agency had to add double the days and double the rooms at all four locations this week. At all locations, power industry speakers were in the minority—not because they were outnumbered, but because they simply didn't choose to participate. But that doesn't mean the hearings lacked value or interest. Testimony from a former coal miner, coal industry groups, members of the military, an Olympic medal holder, a climate scientist, environmental groups, and individual citizens demonstrated the range of views on the proposal and the health, climate, and economic stakes.

The hearings, scheduled for Denver, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C., were originally scheduled to be held on a single day at each location. A couple of weeks after the schedule was announced, each site added a day, EPA Media Affairs Officer Lisa McClain Vanderpool told *POWER*on July 28. All locations also added a second hearing room. More than 200 people were registered to speak on both July 29 and 30 in Denver.

Advocacy groups both for and against the proposed standards, from the Sierra Club to Americans for Prosperity, held rallies and press events at other locations on hearing days, where they spoke largely to those who share their views. Inside the hearing rooms, EPA staff heard a mix of views—and not just from the extremes. (Note that the comments addressed in this story reflect just those heard in one of the two rooms on the first day of the hearing.)

Most attendees at the Denver hearing were from Colorado, but they also came from several other states, including Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, California, Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky, and New York.

Although the speaker lineup for the Denver hearings in the EPA's new Region 8 offices changed over the 24 hours prior to and during the sessions (due to no-shows and substitutions), the preliminary posting of speakers at all locations showed that power industry stakeholders were a small minority of those registered to speak.

Power Industry Largely Silent

Among the few power generating company representatives who did show up was Michael Hutcheson, an environmental engineer for Ameren, which serves Missouri and Illinois. Ameren, he said in his five-minute comments, believes the rule is legally and technically flawed and will cause higher customer costs and economic damage to the country. Hutcheson described Ameren's efforts to reduce emissions, including installing scrubbers and improving efficiency.

"We have made progress in reducing our carbon footprint," Hutcheson said, and the company is adding more renewables, combined cycle capacity, energy efficiency, and retiring coal "at the end of its useful life," and adding plans for more nuclear. Ameren can achieve a 30% reduction "over a slightly longer time frame" with less cost than the EPA's plan, he said. Hutcheson also suggested the EPA should eliminate the "aggressive interim goals" that begin in 2020 and replace them with a plan for states to come up with a "glide path" for those goals. States should have flexibility to extend the final goal past 2030 for "reliability concerns and rate shock." Ameren believes it could meet the goals by 2035.

Later in the day, I spoke with Hutcheson about the scarcity of other generating companies at the hearings. He said that after the second day was added, he was told he couldn't speak because there were no open slots, but he traveled to Denver anyhow and got a 9:45 slot. Ameren also sent speakers to the D.C. and Pittsburgh hearings and is submitting written comments.

"We're still looking at the rule," he said. Other power companies are likely also spending time with lawyers and other advisors parsing the details of the proposal before going on the record with comments. Other generators Ameren has talked to are submitting written comments, so they saw no reason to make oral comments, Hutcheson said.

Co-ops and Munis Particularly Concerned

The one industry cluster that was most visible at the Denver hearing was cooperatives and municipal utilities, which are concerned that their members and customers will be exposed to rate shock should the proposed rule be finalized.

Troy DeJoode, with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, said their main concern is one of complexity and timelines. "I'm not here to debate the rules," he said. "It's simply a matter of practicality," noting that he appreciates "the flexibility that EPA has provided the states." He said his group would provide more details in written comments on rate impacts, stranded costs, and other issues.

Rick Gordon, representing Tri-state Generation and Transmission Association, which provides

power to 44 electric co-ops, said those co-ops have some of the poorest consumers. He suggested that farmers trying to irrigate their fields and mothers trying to raise their children will pay the price of the regulation. He expressed concern that there was "no consideration of the cooperative model" in the proposed rule, because co-ops cannot recover costs, as regulated utilities can. Because of the former ban on natural gas generation when Tri-State was expanding, co-ops don't have much gas capacity in their portfolios. He also commented that "EPA may not have the legal authority" to propose the plan, which "expands EPA authority." As did others in the power industry, he called for a "more reasonable timeline."

Dan Hodges of Colorado Springs Utilities, a municipal utility that owns and operates coal, gas, and hydro plants, shared several concerns. Among them, he said that building blocks 3 and 4 and maybe 2 are not necessarily supported by the law. He also feels the proposal timeline is very rushed and puts a burden on utilities to come up with a budget and plan. He shared concern about "errors in the plan" like nameplate capacity (which the EPA used) versus actual certified operating capacity. The push toward gas generation also poses challenges. One gas power plant uses about as much gas as all the gas used in Colorado Springs now, he said, so there are implications for gas demand. He asked the EPA to consider a less-stringent interim goal and said he was concerned residents will get hit by gas increases on both home heating and electricity bills if there are changes in the gas market.

Not all co-ops are against the plan. Megan Gillman, vice president of the Board of Directors of Holy Cross Energy, an electric co-op for the Vail and Aspen area, explained that her utility is moving toward lower-intensity energy. Its 20% renewables by 2015 goal has already been met. She recognizes that power generation resources vary by region, but "climate change is not a local issue." She asked the EPA to consider combustion of vented methane. Holy Cross has partnered with an active coal mine in western Colorado on such a project, but they are concerned that it will count as an increase in carbon emissions for them, not a decrease. She asked the EPA to enable innovative approaches and to consider lifecycle carbon emissions for biomass projects involving woody biomass (of which there is a lot, due to pine beetle kill in the state). She also asked that the EPA ensure accounting for early action.

Tom Smith, director of the nonprofit Public Citizen's Texas office, said he is also a member of an electric co-op. "The cost of *inaction* is far too high," he said, citing the costs of crop losses and failures due to drought and wildfires; health impacts, including diseases coming back that had previously been eliminated; the cost of asthma going up; and escalating insurance costs for flood and fire. "No state has the ability to benefit more [from the rules] … than Texas," he said, because of its large role in renewables and natural gas. About 120,000 people are employed in the renewable industry in Texas, he said, and only about 23,000 in the coal industry—"and we mine and burn a lot of coal in Texas," he added. A public utility commissioner had asked him to suggest going back to 2005 for the baseline. He said he thinks co-ops need a separate subsection for their own implementation plans.

Coal Industry and Workers Not Necessarily Aligned

One of the starkest contrasts of the day came right at the beginning. EPA staff indicated that speakers were scheduled according to when they registered, though no-shows and substitutions

altered that schedule throughout the hearing. Nevertheless, back-to-back five-minute comments by John S. Kinkaid, Robert Emery, and Stanley Sturgill essentially marked the opposing sides.

Moffatt County (Colorado) Commissioner Kinkaid was one of the rare few who invoked the EPA's "war on coal" in his remarks and said it would affect his county's economy. "Coal lifts people out of poverty," he said. The $85,000/year jobs provided by coal mining can't be replaced by job retraining, he argued. Kinkaid also spoke out against "environmental extremists" and argued that CO_2 is not a pollutant.

Emery, who moved to Colorado from North Carolina to escape the negative effects of coal-fired power plant pollution and whose comments included data from reinsurance giant Munich RE regarding the insurance aspects of climate change, said the fossil energy industry could have been a leader in transitioning the energy economy but wasn't. He and others after him also noted the enormous costs of responding to recent extreme wildfires and flooding in Colorado.

Emery was followed by Sturgill, a retired coal miner who traveled from eastern Kentucky to speak. Sturgill said he knows coal miners need jobs, but maintained that they can be retrained. Sturgill, who said he lives downwind from 56 coal-fired units in Kentucky, has black lung, COPD, and other respiratory ailments. He said he was speaking for the health of the citizens of Kentucky and commented that the proposed rule is "a mere lean" in the right direction. The EPA, he said, is giving states and coal plants too many breaks. "EPA," he concluded, "we're dying—literally dying for you to help us."

Greg Schaefer, vice president of external affairs for Arch Coal's western operations, spoke a bit later. He is nearing retirement and wonders about the industry's future. He said he's concerned that many are trying to shut down the industry without regard for jobs and incomes. Mining operations in Wyoming pay up to $32.90 an hour, he said. His son is a haul truck driver, and other family members are also involved in the coal industry. "EPA is asking a lot from families like mine," he said, especially as the rule won't do much for climate change, as it's a global problem. Schaefer also talked about how the coal industry supports Wyoming schools and asked the EPA to withdraw the proposal.

Jonathan Downing, with the Wyoming Mining Association, a statewide trade association for 39 members mining coal, bentonite, and other materials, questioned the EPA's legal authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants and warned of overreliance on natural gas.

Health, Environmental, and Agricultural Concerns

Individual speakers and those representing groups addressed health issues related to "traditional" coal plant emissions as well as health conditions that are exacerbated by the effects of climate change—from increased heat to increased pests and pollens.

Some spoke purely about generalized concern for the future of children and grandchildren. Others included data in their comments about environmental and health impacts of climate change that they hoped to see mitigated by the EPA's proposed rule.

Speakers affiliated with the Sierra Club were among the most visible, thanks to their aqua-colored tee shirts bearing the message "I [heart] Clean Air." In the week leading up to the hearing, the Sierra Club made a "high five-figure investment" in a radio campaign designed to get folks out to the hearings. Several speakers were registered to speak at all hearings, but in Denver, there appeared to be additional members in attendance as well.

James Hughes, the first Sierra Club speaker, argued that "The EPA is a mouse trying to put out the fire" in light of the greater power held by the fossil fuel industry.

Bill Corcoran, western regional director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, spoke against the "useful life of coal plants" approach and said the climate can't wait for the end of that useful life. He urged 35% to 40% emissions reductions from coal plants rather than the proposed 30%. He doesn't want to see incentives for natural gas and nuclear and said wind and solar are growing in capacity. He argued that the EPA underestimated renewable energy growth opportunities.

Jaime Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Know Best, thanked the EPA. She commented that Coloradans are protective of the outdoors. One-third of hospital visits for children in Colorado are due to lung conditions, she said. "We all have a moral obligation to protect our kids."

Ronnie Citron-Fink, a parent and teacher representing Moms Clean Air Force, traveled from New York to share concern about children with asthma. Climate change is making conditions worse for respiratory conditions, she said.

Cindy Liverance, vice president of programs for the American Lung Association in Denver, is asthmatic and has children with respiratory issues. "We need the Clean Power Plan to protect public health," she told EPA staff. She has to watch outdoor levels of air pollution before engaging in outdoor activities and noted that kids with asthma can't always play outside at school. When 85 kids with respiratory conditions at "Champ Camp" were asked, they all said they want clean air and "don't understand why adults keep it dirty."

Dr. Patrick O'Herron, a practicing trauma and acute care surgeon from Oregon, said he was "speaking for thousands" of health care practitioners. He commented on issues of food and water security as well as air- and water-borne diseases. He asked if the plan is the best the EPA can do to protect the health of citizens.

Steve Szbao, a farmer from Longmont, Colo., talked about his personal experience of seeing the benefits of the acid rain program and said he's worried about weather effects on crop production in the future.

Mark Fix, Montana rancher and irrigator, thanked the EPA for the rule and shared his experiences with "climate weirding." He is a wildfire survivor and also saw a tornado with over 90 mph winds hit his farm last year. He is still cleaning up downed cottonwoods from that event. Fix lost 10% of his heifer calves from sickness and a long winter and detailed the impacts on

cattle of unusual freezing and flooding. Those in agriculture have to deal with the weather every day, he said, so "it's an economic and environmental imperative" for the rule. Fix is a co-op member and said a focus on coal has put his supplier into bankruptcy.

Though attendees were cautioned not to jeer or cheer, out of respect for all speakers and to keep the hearing moving, there was one instance of laughter. Eric Larsen is a polar explorer—"a job you've probably never heard about"—with a 72-day no-shower record (which elicited the laughter). "I'm pretty much average in every way," he claimed, before explaining that he was just back from his "Last North" expedition. He has completed more polar expeditions than any other American in history and goes because "they may not be there" in the future. His expeditions are designed to "connect people to the last great frozen places" and to catalog places for the record. "We are all average people" but have the ability to do amazing things, like reducing carbon emissions, he concluded.

Firefighters Concerned

John Lauer was one of two firefighters on Tuesday who spoke in support of the proposed rule. Lauer, a wildland firefighter, cited studies that point to increasing wildfire risk. Though wildfire is natural, a "natural" wildfire moves slowly, he said, but today we have "super fires" moving at an explosive rate, destroying the soil and everything in its path. Lauer fought the Gila Fire, the largest in New Mexico history. He spoke of the cost of fires, including property and human life loss. Proposed regulations reduce the odds of conditions that lead to these fires, he commented. He also spoke well of those in the coal industry who "should be fully supported" in a transition to a new future.

The Military Perspective

Hal Bidlack, speaking as an individual, is a former member of the U.S. Air Force, holds a PhD from Michigan, worked at the White House on energy security issues, and taught at the Air Force Academy, among other professional accomplishments. "We shouldn't wait to address looming threats," he said. He believes too many American leaders have waited too long to address the climate change threat. The military, however, gets it. There are three challenges for Pentagon, he outlined:

- Climate change is a threat multiplier. It will cause resources to become more scarce. Extreme weather events have already required military response, including to the 2013 typhoon Haiyanin the Philippines.
- Climate change will affect homeland security. The effects of climate change affect Colorado, not just polar regions, he noted. The Waldo Canyon fire came within a mile of his home. No single event is proof of climate change, he acknowledged, but the accumulation of them is.
- Climate change presents a challenge to military bases around the world. Bidlack mentioned Camp Pendleton evacuations due to extreme weather.

Military planners customarily operate with incomplete knowledge, he observed. After citing Dick Cheney's "1% doctrine" (if there's even a 1% chance of a terrorist act, that justifies action),

he observed that too many leaders dismiss overwhelming science showing that climate change is real.

Job Losses Feared—From the Rule and From Climate Change

The arguments about anticipated job losses and electricity cost increases resulting from the proposed standards are familiar and were addressed by coal industry speakers. But speakers representing other groups and industries argued that unless coal generation is curtailed, many other industries will experience catastrophic economic losses. The ski industry was among those representing that side of the issue.

Kaylin Richardson, a pro skier and two-time Olympian, said that over the last 20 years she had been observing climate change and not realizing it. She has trained on glaciers in France and Austria that are disappearing. At the 2010 Winter Olympic games in Vancouver, it wouldn't get to freezing, which made for scary conditions for competitors. Last year, while in Norway to film a ski movie for Warren Miller Entertainment, there was no bitter cold—above the Arctic Circle. Another year, it rained in Norway in February, she said. And in Colorado, the spring melt season starts two months earlier than historically. She said she's concerned not just about the loss of great skiing conditions but about business and job losses that result from shorter ski seasons.

Liz Mcintyre, a three-time winter Olympian and member of the National Ski Hall of Fame, among other kudos, lives in Grand County, Colo., and purchases power from a co-op. She said the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is shutting out the voices of many on this issue. "A well-conceived plan is necessary to achieve desired results," she argued. She commented that she had skied on a glacier in France that has now disappeared. To industry, she asked, "what have you been doing for the last 40 years? Is keeping the power on enough?"

Catharine McCormick, of the Natural Resources Defense Council, focused on the experience of Iowa, the leader in wind generation. Mid-America Energy will invest even more in wind in the state to increase wind to 40% of its portfolio, she said. Iowa also has some of the cheapest rates in the country and has attracted Facebook and other tech company data centers. She called for more energy efficiency in the plan, which creates jobs in installation and retrofits.

Chris Votoupal, deputy director of Colorado Cleantech Association, said that group's members are involved in using all forms of energy and are in support of the proposed regulations. The association has technologies to help assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all the areas, from gas technology to demand side management, he said. Regarding the cost impacts of the policy, he (like many others) argued that the cost of coal generation doesn't take into account health effects of coal-fired generation or costs of drought, fire, and floods. The same arguments about cost were raised with previous regulations, he noted, but the higher rates did not materialize.

Moral Oral Arguments

Various religious groups were represented at all four hearing locations.

In Denver, Jim White introduced himself as "a person of science and faith" who is involved with the Lutheran advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He's also a full professor at the University of Colorado and has studied ice cores, is a highly cited author (the top half of 1%, he said), and a climate scientist. "At its core, climate change is a moral issue," he commented, one that creates an "intergenerational inequity," as future generations will suffer the consequences. Climate change also has a disproportional impact on poorer people, he observed, before quoting Christ: "Whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me." The proposed plan won't resolve all the problems, but is a start, he concluded.

A Colorado Focus on Climate Change Impacts and Generation Mix Shift

Matt Jones, Colorado state senator, spoke about the 169 houses lost in Colorado's 2010 Fourmile Fire in Boulder County, which he fought. That was only one of several recent Colorado wildfires, he noted. He emphasized that it's not just a Colorado issue. Firefighters are not climate change deniers, he said, citing a *60 Minutes* episode on wildfires.

Last year, Jones' district also experienced an unprecedented flood that damaged 28,000 dwellings and resulted in $3.36 billion in damage. The county is considering a sales tax increase to pay for some of the damage. Jones said it will be cheaper to act now on moving to cleaner power sources than to continue responding to the effects of climate change.

But Colorado isn't alone in experiencing extreme weather events. Karen Hadden, from Texas, asked the EPA to strengthen the rule. She commented on heat extremes in Texas as well as wildfires and floods in Austin—including an unexpected flash flood that was the worst since the 1800s. Many power co-ops, she noted, are opponents of the proposed rule but could benefit from the rule, she argued. She asked that renewable credits be allowed to be sold across state borders and for nuclear power incentives to be cut because nuclear power is "not clean and not affordable."

Jerry Tinianow, Denver's chief sustainability officer, said the city wants to know if it will get credit for what it's already done and expects the rule will provide an economic benefit to the Denver region.

Max Tyler, chairman of the House Transportation and Energy Committee for Colorado, said that because of what the state has done in the past 10 years (mostly in terms of increasing renewable generation), it is well on the way to meeting the EPA goals. He asked the EPA to hold to the 2012 baseline "because the bar is too low at the 30%." He believes the private sector "can accomplish this with little effect." In reference to John Kincaid's comments about Western Slope generation, he noted that the skies may be clear in Craig, Colo., but its coal plant pumps out more carbon pollution than any other stationary source in Colorado. He argued that maximizing profit is a legitimate mission for coal companies and utilities but not for the EPA, and concluded that Colorado's shift to a cleaner portfolio has been much more cost-effective than anticipated.

Renewables Promoted as Coal Alternative

Several speakers commented that renewables had the ability to supplant coal for power

generation. In addition to various environmental groups, a solar industry representative, and individuals, business and civic groups spoke in favor of renewables.

Among them was a representative of the employee-owned New Belgium Brewing Co., a Colorado company that has solar photovoltaic panels on its roofs and that taxes itself for coal power used. It's also working with the city of Fort Collins on demand response and other energy efficiency measures. "Regulation is required to create appropriate market signals" for cleaner power, the speaker said, noting that Fort Collins was the first city in the state to pass a renewable portfolio standard.

Kyla Maki, with Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena, called for increasing Montana's emissions reduction targets based on the state's renewable energy potential. She said Montana's emission reduction target is the second lowest proposed by the EPA's plan but thinks the state's wind energy potential, which is second in the country, should be factored in.

Among the individuals speaking in favor of the proposed plan was Andrew Lane, who said his Army unit won't let him wear his uniform to the hearing, but he brought it with him. Lane, who is also a graduate student at Arizona State University, said those in support of this plan are not "extremists" and noted that the U.S. military is going green. By 2016, the Navy will use 50% renewable fuels. "For anyone who denies climate science, I don't know where you are," he said.

Carbon Tax Advocates

Several speakers encouraged the EPA to make a carbon tax at the state level an option in its final rule. They noted that economists, politicians, and scientists have concurred that a carbon tax is the best method of reducing emissions, so they are surprised it wasn't included in the plan. Some noted that anything labeled a tax seems to have an impossible time of passage at the federal level, but there seems to be greater potential for a carbon tax if handled at the state level.

Catherine Caruthers of Environmental Tax Reform U.S. was among those who cited a report by Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI) that suggests a carbon tax may be a faster, cheaper way to get to the EPA's goals.

Susan Seacord of Sierra Club said a "well-designed carbon tax" would protect families from rising costs and actually add jobs if monies are returned to the public, citing the REMI study as well as British Columbia's experience with a carbon tax.

The Public Was Heard at Public Hearings

At the start of Tuesday's hearings, Sean McGrath, regional administrator for EPA Region 8, noted that more than 300,000 comments on the proposed carbon pollution standard had been received to date. "There are no special comments or special groups," McGrath said, reminding attendees that comments can also be made online until October 16. The EPA values the diversity of opinion, he said. "Even if you don't agree with the speaker, please respect them."

Though various sources predicted that the hearings would be contentious, heated, and require a

passport to gain entry, in my eight hours at the Denver hearing, I didn't hear any cheering or jeering in the building, and I didn't need a passport to enter.

DENVER (AP/CBS4) – Clean-Air Rules Assailed In Denver As Too Much, Too Little

July 29, 2014 4:07 PM

Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable-energy companies, government agencies, religious and civil rights organizations and others sent representatives to the hearings.

Some endorsed the proposals, while others said they were a timid response to a huge problem or an unwarranted attack on the coal industry and its employees.

John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA in Denver that the rules would devastate his area, home to a major power plant.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," he said. "Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan."

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and the public's. Sturgill said he suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

In Atlanta, Jim Doyle, president of Business Forward and a former Commerce Department official in the Clinton administration, said the benefits of fighting climate change – and the

extreme weather it is blamed for – outweigh the potential costs. “Over the past four years, American factories have been disrupted by typhoons in Thailand, hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, droughts in Texas, tornadoes in Kentucky, falling water levels across the Great Lakes and flooding in the Northeast,” he said.

Others at the Atlanta hearing said the rules could raise electricity prices and cause job losses without significantly curtailing global carbon emissions. As U.S. utilities switch to natural gas, more U.S. coal is being shipped and burned overseas.

With only five minutes each to address the EPA, scores of advocates in Denver staged rallies for or against the proposed rules.

“They’re basically trying to shut down coal, which takes away my job,” said Mike Zimmerman, a foreman at the Twentymile Mine in northwestern Colorado, who attended a rally sponsored by Americans for Prosperity.

“We can’t afford to let Washington do to our energy costs what they’re already doing to our health care costs. We have to stop this EPA power grab,” Dustin Zvonek with Americans for Prosperity said.

At a rally staged by a group called Colorado Moms Know Best, Jaime Travis said the rules would cause some disruption but should be implemented. “It won’t be painless. But as a mother, I am truly worried about the future, not just of my state, but the country and the world,” she said.

“While increasing energy bills are a concern, a much larger problem is long-term costs to my children’s health,” Travis said.

The Denver meetings are the only ones being held in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality. Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West – Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration’s goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West’s large coal-fired power plants, including Montana’s 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana’s Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, has said at least some of Colstrip’s four units could keep operating if the state can cut emissions in other areas.

Four power plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona’s Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing

haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The Atlanta, Denver and Washington hearings continue Wednesday. The Pittsburgh hearings will be held Thursday and Friday.

Oil & Gas 360- Reporting Live From the EPA Hearing on Proposed Carbon Dioxide Rules

IN 360 ARTICLES / BY ENERCOM INCORPORATED / ON JULY 30, 2014 AT 6:43 PM /

It was a cold, rainy day in downtown Denver when an Oil & Gas 360® reporter was greeted in the bathroom at the EPA office building: "Lovely weather out there, huh? Even God's saying there's a carbon problem!"

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced in June that its stated goal is to reduce U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030. Today's public hearing on the subject was held at the EPA Region 8 building, 1595 Wynkoop St., Denver. Denver, Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Pittsburgh are the four cities hosting public hearings on the proposal this week.

The EPA Hearing in Denver this morning was a colorful affair, with speakers from Colorado and neighboring states on either side of the debate. The EPA's latest ruling on CO2 is controversial because it pushes many coal power plants out of business, thus making the regulations a burden on the U.S. economy and job market.

From 9:00 a.m. to noon, there were twenty-nine speakers in Room B, all of whom had 5 minutes to state their case to the EPA and the small audience in the room. Some of the speakers would have been more at home with groups discussing the rights of minorities or survivors of Hurricane Katrina, but many had interesting things to say.

Fifteen of the speakers supported the EPA's regulations and asked for more regulations,

especially against methane.

John Atkeison from the Nebraska Wildlife Federation said, “Instead of favoring natural gas, we should support the most affordable power: wind.”

Margaret Rogers, a woman from Boulder who helps people make homes more energy efficient, said, “Maybe you don’t think humans affect the climate, but I think we can all take the environmental leap of faith here – I mean, pumping toxic chemicals into the air can’t be good.”

Steve Stevens, a member of Golden Oldy Cyclery and Sustainability, said “These rules are bold politically but weak environmentally and economically,” especially since “Businesses don’t talk about science, or ethics, or morality.”

Sunny Kelly, a grandmother, compared the coal industry to the ice block sellers who tried to keep refrigerators from being made commercial – with the refrigerators symbolizing renewable energy.

Simon Mostafa from CU Boulder said that “Fossil fuels belong in the ground,” and that the EPA should make stricter regulations: “We shouldn’t export gas either because that makes the same issues we’re trying to stop here happen globally.”

Liz Literal, a DU graduate student, was short and creative with her point, and talked about an old Hopi myth that the white men will die when we abuse Mother Earth.

A soft-spoken member of the “I (Love) Clean Air” group, last name Doleton, reported his horror at the invention of “Freddy the Friendly Frackasaurus,” which someone showed to children at his mom’s school. He told the EPA to “Stop testing it. Do something about it. This isn’t even close to the beginning of what you can and will do.”

Fourteen of the speakers asked for more time, changes, or a rejection of the EPA’s regulations.

Bradly Lewis from Westmoreland Coal Company, the oldest coal company in the U.S, told the audience, “Ask yourself, is my life better now than it was when I entered the world? If yes, thank a coal miner.”

Joshua Zive from the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council told EPA officials that their latest regulations are the wrong way to go about creating change, and that they took this authority over the energy industry from “300 words [and changed it] to over 300 pages of regulations.”

Dusty Rose, a member of the United Mine Workers of America, said, “I’m proud to be a miner, like how I was proud to be a soldier for this country.” He argued that the EPA would crush America’s low cost energy when “energy helped the U.S. become a superpower.” With so many coal mines in danger of shutting down, he said, “The EPA is threatening everything I have worked for.”

Another coal miner, Laurence Oliver, asked, “How can a rule that affects scores of workers not

go through Congress?" He also challenged the EPA officials, saying "Conduct more hearings where the impacted live. When you make life or death decisions, you should at least have the courage to look those people in the eye."

Shawn Gallegos from the Boilermakers Union said, "Losing 130 gigawatts raises serious concerns about the reliability of electricity." He also argued that the **Supreme Court had shown earlier this year** that it would not stand for the EPA trying to grab so much power.

Jack Ihie from Excel Energy asked EPA officials to be more flexible since not all companies and states are ready to make such a huge leap away from coal.

Michelle Freair from APCO, a member owned energy station in rural Arizona, said, "It's not clear that the desired generation is capable of replacing us." She also pointed out that "Even if we do what they [the EPA] want, we can't meet their goals… [when] what we've [already] done isn't getting credit."

Joseph Fross from the Boilermakers Union said, "These issues are for civilians, not bureaucrats." He argued that his industry is always looking to do things in an environmentally friendly way, but that such projects take years of planning, and should be done on an individual basis instead of a one-regulation-fits-all policy.

George Wilson, a member of the International Electrical Brothers reported the terrible price of switching too quickly from coal to natural gas. He said that in Pueblo, electric prices rose 26% after Black Hills Energy got rid of their coal plant for a natural gas plant. He also argued that CO2 levels are a global affair, and that while CO2 in the U.S. has been the same or lower since 1990, the world's overall output has increased 44%. He cited a study called "The Value of U.S. Power Supply Diversity" which told EPA officials that they should not put all their energy eggs in one basket by supporting natural gas over coal.

KUSA- EPA hearings turn Denver into political stage

EPA hearings turn Denver into political stage. 9NEWS at 5 p.m. 07/29/14.

6:26 p.m. MDT July 29, 2014

DENVER—People walking by Union Station in Downtown Denver were treated to an unusually high level of political drama.

There were petitioners, mobile billboards and free ice cream.

The cold treats came courte of an environmental group, a compliment to a warming climate and a handy way to get people on a mailing list.

Most people had no idea all this was happening because of a two-day hearing by the Environmental Protection Agency, which is crafting new rules aimed at cleaning up power plants.

Hundreds of people signed up to speak for and against the proposal inside the regional EPA office in downtown Denver.

Even more people used the EPA's hearings as a platform to campaign both on the clean energy issue and races in the November elections.

Supporters of the EPA plan argued that Republican candidates are going to end up on the wrong side of the push for clean energy.

"Coloradans have a long history of being very environmentally conscious as well as promoting clean energy and putting investments into solar and wind," argued Abby Leeper with the left-leaning group NextGen Climate Colorado.

The group set up a mock power plant on the street, casting Republican senatorial candidate Cory Gardner as a friend of polluters.

In fact, a hired actor playing "Mister Polluter" invited people to have their picture taken with himself and a cardboard cutout of Gardner.

Republicans begged to differ with the idea that they are on the losing side of this issue.

They cast the proposed EPA rules as a threat to people's electric bills and to jobs for coal and oil producers.

"You've got an opportunity in November to take Colorado a different direction," said Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez, who headlined an anti-EPA rally sponsored by Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group.

He told members of the crowd, many of whom were coal miners from Western Colorado and neighboring states, that his grandfather used to shovel coal in a power plant.

That doesn't mean he opposes green energy outright. When asked if society needs to get away from fossil fuels eventually, Bueaprez told 9NEWS, "sure, eventually. And that's why many of us, myself included, talk about real 'all of the above' energy plans."

To opponents of the EPA plan, 'all of the above' means allowing greener energy sources to work their way into the power market, rather than trying to speed that up with government policies.

However, supporters of the EPA who worry about climate change argue greener power can't

wait.

Rocky Mountain PBS- Hundreds Pack EPA Hearings On Proposed Carbon Rules

By: DAN BOYCE | July 30, 2014

Mark Fix has been ranching outside of Miles City, Montana since the mid-1980s, raising cattle, alfalfa and grain on his 9,700 acre plot of land. But severe weather events have been stacking up in recent years: a tornado tore through his barn, flooding stranded his cows. It's impacting his bottom line, and he's convinced it's from human-caused climate change.

"It seems like this carbon stuff has been affecting us in weird ways," he said Tuesday from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region Eight headquarters in Denver. Fix joined what's expected to be about 1600 people giving feedback to the EPA this week on proposed rules restricting carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power plants.

The proposal, as we reported back in June, would be the biggest step taken by the U.S. so far to combat the effects of climate change. The rules call for cutting carbon emissions from power plants in 2005 by nearly a third in the next 15 years. It's accomplished through a complex state-by-state approach which requires fewer reductions the more an individual state relies on fossil fuels. While many environmentalists are hailing the proposal as an important step in the right direction, utilities and fossil fuel companies are saying it will lead to higher energy bills and a loss of jobs in sectors like the coal industry.

The public hearings on the rules, like the one attended by Mark Fix, are going on in Denver, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Washington D. C. this week. The oral comments will be added to the about 300-thousand written comments the EPA has already taken in on the rules.

"It's really been a high level of engagement by the public, which is exactly what we are hoping for," said Jenny Noonan, a member of the EPA team writing the rules. The agency is still accepting public comment online until mid-October and plans to release the final rules next June.

AP- EPA HEARS PRAISE, CRITICISM OF NEW AIR RULES

By DAN ELLIOTT and RAY HENRY

— Jul. 30, 2014 5:26 AM EDT

DENVER (AP) — To retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules limiting pollution from power plants doesn't do enough to protect the public's health.

Sturgill, a retired coal miner from Harlan County, Kentucky, who traveled to a public hearing about the rules Tuesday in Denver, told the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and that of the public. Sturgill said he suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

But at the same hearing, John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA that the rules would devastate his area, home to a major power plant. "Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan," he said.

The sharply divergent views about the proposed rules were among the many different comments made as the EPA launched hearings Tuesday in Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

Utility and coal company representatives said the rules were unclear and unreasonable, and they warned that jobs and communities could suffer. Renewable-energy executives said their industry will bring jobs, profits and innovations. Grandparents admonished the EPA to do more to protect children.

Georgia utility regulator Lauren "Bubba" McDonald told the EPA in Atlanta that the rules are an unnecessary intervention by the federal government.

"Please leave us alone," McDonald said. "We set these goals ourselves, and we know how to achieve them."

But Jim Doyle, a former Commerce Department official in the Clinton administration, said at the Atlanta hearing that the benefits of fighting climate change outweigh the potential costs of extreme weather blamed on global warming.

"Over the past four years, American factories have been disrupted by typhoons in Thailand, hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, droughts in Texas, tornadoes in Kentucky, falling water levels across the Great Lakes and flooding in the Northeast," he said.

The hearings in Denver, Atlanta and Washington will continue Wednesday, and a hearing in Pittsburgh will start on Thursday. The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

With only five minutes each to address the agency, scores of advocates in Denver staged rallies for or against the proposed rules.

"They're basically trying to shut down coal, which takes away my job," said Mike Zimmerman, a foreman at northwestern Colorado's Twentymile Mine, who attended a rally sponsored by Americans for Prosperity.

At a rally staged by Colorado Moms Know Best, Jaime Travis said the rules would cause some disruption but should be implemented. "It won't be painless. But as a mother, I am truly worried about the future, not just of my state, but the country and the world," she said.

Denver is the only city to host hearings in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality. Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat, has said at least some of Colstrip's four units could keep operating if the state can cut emissions in other areas.

Four plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

KUNC-Denver EPA Hearing Draws A Crowd

By Bente Birkeland

Coal supporters opposed to the EPA rules rally in front of the state capitol, July 29, 2014. The EPA hearing was being held nearby in downtown Denver the same day.

Hundreds of people are expected to testify in Denver on proposed rules to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. The Denver hearing is one of several the Environmental Protection Agency is hosting across the country on the plans.

69-year-old Stanley Sturgill, flew to Denver from a small coal mining town in southeastern Kentucky for the day just to make his voice heard.

"I worked in the coal mines for 41 years, in an underground coal mine as a coal miner, and federal coal mine inspector," said Sturgill. "I don't have long to live, common sense will tell you that, because I have black lung and COPD and other respiratory ailments."

COPD is a progressive disease that makes breathing difficult. Sturgill said he wants to spend the time he has left working to make the air cleaner. He supports the EPA rules to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030. He only wishes the rules went even farther.

"We're dying, literally dying and it's their job to help us," he said. "The war on coal, is a war that king coal, the industry, has falsified."

Others in the coal industry argue the rules are too burdensome, will increase energy costs, and harm the industry. Several-hundred coal supporters opposed to the EPA rules held a separate rally in front of the state capitol. They praised the coal industry for providing high paying jobs and helping create a stronger middle class.

"It was paying enough to where I could support my family and what we needed to support ourselves," said John Simonet, an underground coal miner. Five years ago he took his job at Twentymile Coal company near Craig, Colorado because he said it was dependable.

The new EPA rules are intended to reduce greenhouse gases and curb global warming. They're part of the Climate Plan President Barack Obama unveiled in 2013. According to the agency, carbon pollution is leading to long lasting climate changes, such as rising temperatures and sea levels, and more droughts, wildfires, floods, hurricanes and other extreme weather events.

Advocates like Carey Christ-Janer want the EPA to give even more direction to state in crafting emission reduction plans.

"I think it's a historic moment and a step in the right direction," said Christ-Janer. She also thinks there should be a lot of coordination to keep energy prices low.

"We don't want to quadruple the rates. We want to keep energy affordable and have renewable energy for the most people possible," said Christ-Janer.

The day's events also took a political turn when Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez spoke at the pro-coal rally. Beauprez said when his grandfather immigrated to Colorado from Belgium, his first job was working in a coal mine. But he said times have changed.

"We have never used coal, cleaner, safer more efficiently than we do right now," Beauprez said. "That isn't something to punish. It's something to celebrate. Why would you cripple the great American and the Colorado economy when it needs a helping hand the most?"

Colorado officials said the state will have an easier time complying than many other parts of the country. The state already has a renewable energy standard requiring larger utility companies to get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by the year 2020. Colorado lawmakers also passed a bill in 2010 to replace some older coal fired power plants and switch to cleaner burning natural gas.

The EPA meetings continue nationwide through August 1, Denver's meetings conclude July 30, 2014.

EPA hears testimony on proposed carbon emissions rules

By Ben Wolfgang and Valerie Richardson

The Washington Times

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

DENVER | The atmosphere outside was festive, with music, free T-shirts and ice cream giveaways, but the mood inside the Environmental Protection Agency's first hearings on its proposed power plant regulations was anything but.

Hundreds of people testified Tuesday in three cities — Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C. — on the Obama administration's proposed rules requiring a 30 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 2030.

The hearings conclude Wednesday, with a final two-day hearing slated to begin Thursday in Pittsburgh. Written comments are being accepted until Oct. 16, with the final regulations expected to be released next year, after the November election.

The timing may not be accidental: As Tuesday's testimony demonstrated, the proposal causes bitter disagreement between environmentalists and renewable energy companies versus the coal industry, labor unions and local governments.

"[T]he environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity both for Moffat County and the entire nation," said Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, whose county lies at the heart of Colorado's coal country. "Coal means that kids can go to school and get an education. Coal means that families can buy homes and put food on the table."

Mr. Kinkaid said that the county's coal-fired power plant is responsible for $428 million annually in direct and indirect economic impact.

"Maybe that's not very much money in Washington, D.C., but here in the heartland of America, it is," said Mr. Kinkaid.

On the other side was Stan Sturgill of Kentucky, a retired coal miner, who said at the hearing he now suffers from black lung and other respiratory ailments as a result of coal. He asked the panel to implement even tougher restrictions on emissions."Your targets to reduce carbon dioxide pollution by 2030 are way too low and do not do enough to reduce our risk from climate change," said Mr. Sturgill. "The rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities from the consequences of this pollution. We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

The Obama administration weighed in with a report Tuesday in an effort to justify its controversial actions on climate change, and also plans to roll out new executive moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The study shows the potential damages to the planet by delaying steps — such as harsh new limits on carbon emissions from power plants — to tackle global warming.

"First of all, we know way more than enough to justify acting today. Second, delaying action will increase the costs," said Jason Furman, chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, which produced the report. "And third … the large-scale risks associated with climate change are an argument for acting more today as a form of insurance against the worst consequences in the future."

Those supporting the regulations appeared to have the numerical edge at Tuesday's Denver hearing. Dozens of people wore light teal T-shirts with the message "I [heart] Clean Air," which were being given away by Sierra Club organizers outside the EPA building in Denver's trendy lower downtown.

Meanwhile, Climate Reality Project workers solicited comments on the proposal and gave out coupons for free Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Trucks with signs promoting the wind and solar industries, which stand to benefit from the regulations, parked across the street from the EPA building.

"Climate change is real and the impacts are being felt already through intensified storms, flooding, hurricanes, drought and wildfires," said Karen Hadden, executive director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition in Austin. "We are experiencing them now in Texas. We cannot afford the cost of not taking action."

A few blocks away, Americans for Prosperity held a rally next to the Colorado state capitol, giving away red T-shirts with the message, "Stop the EPA Power Grab." A prop plane flew over the capital pulling a banner with the same slogan.

Speakers from Colorado, Montana and Wyoming decried the proposed standards, which they said would result in higher energy costs and job losses while doing virtually nothing to counter climate change. Wyoming is the top coal-producing state in the nation, responsible for 40 percent of the nation's coal production.

Jess LaBuff of the Boilermakers Local 11 of Montana said the EPA's goals were "unrealistic and unachievable," while dozens of coal miners and family members arrived on five buses from Craig, Colorado, to speak out against the regulations.

"They're going to regulate us to the point where they're going to close up the coal mines," said coal miner Anthony Delgado. "It's going to suck."

Durango Herald- Denver residents rally over emission standards

By Peter Marcus

DENVER – Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday told The Durango Herald he supports the goal of proposed federal carbon-pollution standards, but he would like to work with environmental officials on the proposal.

The Democratic governor facing a tough re-election bid was criticized by Republicans for not denouncing the proposal being pushed by President Barack Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency, which aims to cut carbon-dioxide emissions.

While he supports the intent of the proposal, Hickenlooper said he isn't sure a mandate from the EPA is necessary.

"We haven't gotten to the details; we're still working through that ourselves, part of that depends on the metrics. ... But almost all of us support that goal of having less CO2 in the air," Hickenlooper told the Herald at an unrelated event touting the redevelopment of Denver's Union Station.

Just down the street from the renovated train and bus terminals, the EPA held the first of two

listening sessions regarding the proposed rules. The second hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. Throngs of environmentalists and coal supporters attended the 11-hour hearing, in which administrators gathered feedback on the proposal.

The Obama Administration aims to cut carbon-dioxide emissions nationwide by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Colorado is considered well-prepared, and a target of 35 percent has been proposed for the state.

Hickenlooper, however, said he has been working with Western governors on the same issue without federal mandates.

He has been at odds with environmentalists over his support for hydraulic fracturing, despite the governor repeatedly stating his commitment to the environment. Hickenlooper opposes two proposed ballot initiatives that aim to allow local governments to crack down on fracking, suggesting that there are other ways to protect the environment, while balancing energy development.

"What we're trying to do is we've been organizing the Western states to look at this. ... " said Hickenlooper, a former geologist. "Almost every Western state is doing a variety of, whether it's wind or solar, trying to put less CO2 in the air. Whether you're talking about climate change or not, pretty much every state is doing that.

"If we can get the Western governors to work together, I think we have a pretty good argument to go back to the EPA and say, 'Let's moderate this, and let's change this over here, figure out ways we can make it work.'"

Earlier in the day, however, Hickenlooper's challenger, Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez, attacked the governor for not joining a rally near the Capitol opposing the proposed standards.

Republicans invited Hickenlooper to the rally, but the move appeared more politically motivated.

"What we really need is leadership, we are so devoid of leadership. People with a little bit of commonsense, a little bit of a sense of reality, a little bit of heart for real America. ..." Beauprez said to an eruption of cheers at the rally. "We have a vacuum right now, and if the current leaders won't lead, some of us are willing to step forward and do just that.

"I'll leave you with an admonition as American citizens," Beauprez concluded. "Actions have consequences, and election have consequences, and if you think that we have been a little short on leadership in Colorado, you've got an opportunity in November to take Colorado a different direction."

pmarcus@durangoherald.com

The emotionally charged and polarizing issue brought stakeholders and citizens from across the nation, though the majority of speakers represented the West.

The second listening session is scheduled for today. Other stops on the tour include Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh.

"While Colorado has done a good job expanding energy conservation and renewable energy, given the huge problems we are facing, I think we should take it even further," said Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, who attended the Environmental Protection Agency's listening stop and spoke in the morning.

The hearing appeared to be dominated by environmental interests, who packed the overflow room and wore T-shirts that read, “I love clean air.”

“Colorado has led the way on reducing carbon pollution in a collaborative, practical way because it is the right thing to do,” Pete Maysmith, executive director of Conservation Colorado, said at the hearing. “Colorado has a history of doing what is right when it comes to our families, our economy and our environment.”

On the other side of the debate, Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid spoke of the economic impact the new standards could have on Colorado. Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year to the economy, he said.

“The environmental extremists’ war on coal is really a war on prosperity,” said Kinkaid, who represents a coal-heavy part of the state near Craig. “This isn’t some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of Northwest Colorado. To us, this is personal.”

Kinkaid said he had a productive meeting with an EPA regional administrator for Region 8 on Tuesday, who assured him that officials are working on a listening session in the Craig area for September. Opponents of the proposed standards continue to complain that the EPA is not conducting hearings in rural parts of the nation, where coal miners and facilities would be directly impacted.

A spokesman for the regional EPA office confirmed that details are being worked out for the Craig visit.

As the first of two 11-hour hearings played out inside the offices of Region 8, dueling rallies and news conferences highlighted the rift that exists between fossil-fuel supporters and environmentalists who favor renewable resources.

On one side of downtown Denver, children and their mothers played along the South Platte River to demonstrate the importance of clean air and water for future generations.

“We need strong rules to ensure that our children don’t pay the price with their health,” said Jaime Travis, the “head mom” with Colorado Moms Know Best, who has a 7-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter.

Playing into the kids theme, the crowd began chanting, “Carbon pollution yuck, clean energy that’s the way.”

Travis acknowledged that coal miners are also trying to support their kids by keeping a job.

“We must make this transition, and it’s not an easy answer,” she said. “There’s a financial cost in every change you ever make.”

On the other side of downtown, coal miners, free-market advocates and Republicans lambasted the Environmental Protection Agency for the proposed standards.

“These are real Americans with real American jobs,” GOP gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez shouted to an audience of about 200 standing in the shadow of the state Capitol. “Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families, off our dignity of work.”

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez, was unable to attend the coal-friendly rally, but he sent a representative to read a letter from him. He represents parts of Western Colorado where coal is a way of life, including Craig, Hayden, Gunnison and Delta.

“Instead of working toward a responsible all-of-the-above strategy ... the president is picking winners and losers and waging a war on America’s most abundant and affordable energy resources,” read the letter from Tipton.

The proposed standards pushed by President Barack Obama and the EPA aim to cut carbon-dioxide emissions nationwide by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The proposal is state-based, setting separate goals for individual states based on each state’s abilities.

Colorado is considered well-prepared, and a target of 35 percent has been proposed for the state.

Durango sits downwind from the San Juan Generating Station operated by PNM Resources, an energy company based in Albuquerque. The San Juan station is in the northwest corner of New Mexico.

Susan Sponar, spokeswoman for the company, pointed out that PNM already has a plan to close two units of the coal-fired station by 2018 in response to regional haze regulations.

“The good news is that we’ve already taken some steps that are going to start us down the path toward compliance,” said Sponar. “We’re working to understand the rule, but we plan to already ... significantly reduce carbon emissions.”

Colorado Public Radio- EPA's proposed clean air rules assailed, supported at Denver hearing

BY STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS JUL 29, 2014

Hundreds of people across the country are telling the Environmental Protection Agency its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings starting Tuesday in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

Denver's hearing got underway with Moffat County, Colorado, Commissioner John Kinkaid saying the rules would devastate the economy in his county, home to a major power plant.

Greg Schaefer with Arch Coal of Wyoming testified added federal regulations would be harmful.

"We're concerned that this is going to cause so many coal mines to shut down that there will be a deep decline in jobs in that industry," Schaefer said.

The Colorado Mining Association says the proposed regulations would jeopardize 2,000 jobs in the state.

But supporters of the regulations, like Tom Hunt with Clean Energy Collective, say those jobs will be replaced by jobs in the clean energy sector.

Hunt says his non-profit organization that helps build community solar gardens has seen major job growth since it began in 2009.

"We had one person working on a project in the mountains of Colorado," he said. "And then Colorado passed the Community Solar Gardens Act in 2010. Fast forward a few years, we are now at 80 people we directly employ and hundreds of contractors."

Hunt plans to testify Wednesday.

Other supporters also point out that Colorado has already passed its own regulations, which put the state on track to meet the proposed federal standard without federal rules.

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling public health. He urged the agency to do more.

The EPA hearing Denver is the only one west of the Mississippi. The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities. The agency also has received more than 300,000 written comments.

Kamari Durley

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To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Durley, Kamari[Durley.Kamari@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Dylan
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 1:16:28 PM
Subject: Clips From Pittsburg Hearing

I'll continue to track clips throughout the day as well.

WCHS - Coal Supporters To March at EPA Hearing

Reported by: Kaylin Searles, Trevor John Anderson

Reported: Jul. 31, 2014 8:17 AM EDT

Updated: Jul. 31, 2014 8:56 AM EDT

Charleston , Kanawha County , West Virginia

More than 70 busloads of union members and their families from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and elsewhere are set to arrive at a coal rally Thursday.

Members will march to the William S. Morehead federal building about noon, where the Environmental Protection Agency will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed rule. After circling the building, the march will proceed back to the convention center.

Cecil Roberts, the international president of the United Mine Workers of America, said this rule could cause more than 65,000 workers in the coal, utility and railroad industries to lose their jobs by 2025. Coal miners at a rally Wednesday seemed to agree.

"The biggest thing for us was to put a face to it," Mike Adams, coal miner, said. "Show everybody who it impacts and affects. It is not just a coal company, it's a lot of families, a lot of kids, a lot of people here today."

The EPA has already received 300,000 written comments from concerned people, and will continue accepting written statements until the middle of October.

West Virginia's Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said environmental regulations must strike a balance with America's energy needs and protecting miner's jobs.

"We all want a clean environment but we've got to be reasonable," Tomblin said at a coal rally Wednesday. "We don't have the technology today to be able to burn the coal the way that they're proposing, and we're just simply asking that they back off, work with the states so that we can come to a compromise so that we can keep you coal miners working so we can keep this country working."

The EPA is collecting comments from Pittsburgh, Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. The agency is expecting to hear from 1,600 people.

WTRF - UPDATE: Coal Supporters Rally in Pittsburgh as EPA Holds Hearings

Posted: Jul 30, 2014 8:09 AM EDT

Updated: Jul 31, 2014 8:20 AM EDT

Hundreds of West Virginia coal miners, coal supporters, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Attorney General Patrick Morrisey are in Pittsburgh this week as the EPA holds hearings on greenhouse gas rules.

On Wednesday, supporters joined Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, labor leaders and many others as they held an affordable electricity and energy jobs rally at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh. Wednesday's rally came a day ahead of the EPA hosting public hearings on its recently proposed existing source greenhouse gas rules. The hearings will be held in Pittsburgh on Thursday and Friday, and are one of several happening across the country.

Thursday's hearing was set to begin at 9 a.m. and will take place at the William S. Moorhead Federal building.

During Wednesday's rally, West Virginia Governor Tomblin made the following statement:

"Good morning. Thank you, Bill, for the kind introduction and thank you for always standing up for West Virginia coal miners. I'd also like to thank Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor of Ohio, the Ohio Coal Association, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, the West Virginia Coal Association, Roger Horton and Citizens for Coal, the West Virginia Business and Industry Council and especially all of you who are here today to show your support for the coal industry in West Virginia and surrounding states. I'm proud to stand with you today as we support our region's coal miners, their families, our seniors and our communities. In today's economy, we should be working together toward energy independence, not allowing un-elected bureaucrats to obstruct our nation's energy production. That's why our state is joining the fight against the EPA's proposed rules to establish unreasonable restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. These ideological policies will not only devastate our region by eliminating jobs, but will unnecessarily increase the cost of power across the country.

If these rules are put into place, there is no question - none - electricity rates will skyrocket. It means our manufacturers may again be forced to look overseas for reasonable electric rates - taking with them good paying jobs to countries that do not allow bureaucratic agencies to mandate unilateral restrictions on power production. These rate increases would become an unfair unreasonable financial burden on hardworking people by taking money out of their pockets and causing damaging consequences to our state and national economies.

Since the proposed rules were introduced in June, we have been told states will have flexibility to meet these new standards but the EPA's renewable energy goal for West Virginia - an increase of 600 percent - is simply unattainable. Cost-competitive renewable energy is not available in our state. The EPA must establish goals based on actual available resources and technology, not far-fetched benchmarks.

According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States is losing 60 gigawatts of

coal-powered electricity as a result of the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards, which represented 19 percent of coal capacity at the end of 2012. In addition to these closures, an additional 15 percent reduction in coal plant output challenges our nation's power grid to meet national energy needs and restricts electricity export opportunities in the nation's coal-producing regions.

Since 2005, CO2 emissions in the United States have dropped 12.6 percent while CO2 emissions in China and India have increased by 67 percent and 53 percent, respectively. The only other major country to reduce emissions during the same time period was Canada.

According to the Energy Information Agency, coal will be the world's leading source of energy, surpassing oil by 2035. The rationale for EPA's continued focus on U.S. coal-fired power plants must be disputed and contested. There are many academic and economic arguments against these proposed rules and we will continue to make that case. But I must tell you; this issue is extremely personal for me.

Growing up in the heart of coal country and as a proud son of the West Virginia coalfields, who continues to make his home there, I see the faces behind these numbers. When the EPA forces mines to close, I know the men and women who lose their jobs, the families who are at risk of losing their homes and the sons and daughters forced to move away to find work.

Those West Virginians are the real reason I continue to stand up to the EPA - to be their voice and share their struggles with those who need to hear them. We can and must do better for our communities and our families. Thank you."

WOWK TV - UPDATE: Coal Supporters Rally in Pittsburgh as EPA Holds Hearings

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Those West Virginians are the real reason I continue to stand up to the EPA - to be their voice and share their struggles with those who need to hear them. We can and must do better for our communities and our families. Thank you."

IT Business - AEE and KEEA Cite Opportunities for Savings, Economic Growth, Better Electric System in PA Under EPAs Clean Power Plan

Pittsburgh, PA (PRWEB) July 30, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA, July 30, 2014 As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) holds regional hearings on its draft rule for carbon emissions from existing power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA) and Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) are highlighting the benefits in savings, economic growth, clean air, and job creation in Pennsylvania from EPAs Clean Power Plan.

EPAs flexible approach to reducing carbon emissions can make Pennsylvania a model of energy efficiency, said Brian Kauffman, Executive Director of KEEA. Energy efficiency offers cost savings and jobs at the same time. We ask EPA to give energy efficiency full consideration in its final Clean Power Plan and call on the Commonwealth to make maximum use of this low cost, high benefit resource in Pennsylvania.

Advanced energy technologies like energy efficiency make EPAs state targets easy to achieve, said Graham Richard, CEO of Advanced Energy Economy. With solutions ranging from efficiency to renewable energy to natural gas generation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions will not be difficult. Rather, it will become an opportunity to improve reliability, reduce costs, increase competition, and create new services for consumers.

AEE and KEEA see EPAs Clean Power Plan as a historic opportunity to modernize the U.S. electric power system for the 21st century. The EPA rule will drive investment in an electric power system that is sorely in need of it. By including a wide range of advanced energy technologies in the Plan, reaching state targets will be easy to achieve and exceed with benefits for consumers and states.

Pennsylvania has the foundation for meeting at least 22% of the Pennsylvania emissions target in the EPA proposal through energy efficiency. Redoubling energy efficiency initiatives will help the Commonwealth reach the goal while also providing savings to Pennsylvania electricity customers and creating opportunities for Pennsylvania residents. Pennsylvania currently has roughly 10,000 jobs in energy

efficiency, many of them already run through electric and natural gas utilities.

AEE is a national business organization representing companies offering a wide range of technologies and services that make energy secure, clean, and affordable. KEEA is a Pennsylvania independent energy efficiency trade association of 65 members and a state partner of AEE. AEEs State Coalition consists of 15 partner organizations active in 23 states across the country.

KEEA is speaking and submitting written testimony at EPAs Pittsburgh hearing on Thursday. AEE spoke and submitted written testimony at the Washington, DC, hearing on Wednesday. AEE partner organizations also offered testimony in EPAs other regional hearings: Arkansas Advanced Energy Association in Atlanta; Interwest Energy Alliance in Denver.

A recent AEE report, Advanced Energy Technologies for Greenhouse Gas Reduction, details 40 separate technologies that improve the electric power system while also reducing carbon emissions. These include energy efficiency, demand response, natural gas electricity generation, solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear, smart grid, and energy storage. Many of these technologies are referenced by name in EPAs draft Clean Power Plan. The report is available for download at: http://info.aee.net/epa-advanced-energy-tech-report.

About Advanced Energy Economy

Advanced Energy Economy (http://www.aee.net) is a national association of businesses that are making the global energy system secure, clean, and affordable. Advanced energy encompasses a broad range of products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting energy needs today and tomorrow. AEEs mission is to transform public policy to enable rapid growth of advanced energy businesses.

About Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA)

The Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (http://energywisepa.org/keea) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(6) corporation dedicated to promoting the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries in Pennsylvania. KEEA advocates on behalf of energy efficiency and renewable energy professionals on the local, state, and federal levels. By representing the interests of the clean energy industry in Pennsylvania, KEEA is growing the market for energy efficiency and helping the Keystone State secure a prosperous, sustainable tomorrow.

Daily Journal - EPA hears praise, criticism of proposed rules for power-plant pollution

By DAN ELLIOTT and RAY HENRY Associated Press

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DENVER — To retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules limiting pollution from power plants doesn't do enough to protect the public's health.

Sturgill, a retired coal miner from Harlan County, Kentucky, who traveled to a public hearing about the rules Tuesday in Denver, told the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and that of the public. Sturgill said he suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

But at the same hearing, John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA that the rules would devastate his area, home to a major power plant. "Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan," he said.

The sharply divergent views about the proposed rules were among the many different comments made as the EPA launched hearings Tuesday in Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

Utility and coal company representatives said the rules were unclear and unreasonable, and they warned that jobs and communities could suffer. Renewable-energy executives said their industry will bring jobs, profits and innovations. Grandparents admonished the EPA to do more to protect children.

Georgia utility regulator Lauren "Bubba" McDonald told the EPA in Atlanta that the rules are an unnecessary intervention by the federal government.

"Please leave us alone," McDonald said. "We set these goals ourselves, and we know how to achieve them."

But Jim Doyle, a former Commerce Department official in the Clinton administration, said at the Atlanta hearing that the benefits of fighting climate change outweigh the potential costs of extreme weather blamed on global warming.

"Over the past four years, American factories have been disrupted by typhoons in Thailand, hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, droughts in Texas, tornadoes in Kentucky, falling water levels across the Great Lakes and flooding in the Northeast," he said.

The hearings in Denver, Atlanta and Washington will continue Wednesday, and a hearing in Pittsburgh will start on Thursday. The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

With only five minutes each to address the agency, scores of advocates in Denver staged rallies for or against the proposed rules.

"They're basically trying to shut down coal, which takes away my job," said Mike Zimmerman, a foreman at northwestern Colorado's Twentymile Mine, who attended a rally sponsored by Americans for Prosperity.

At a rally staged by Colorado Moms Know Best, Jaime Travis said the rules would cause some disruption but should be implemented. "It won't be painless. But as a mother, I am truly worried about the future, not just of my state, but the country and the world," she said.

Denver is the only city to host hearings in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality. Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat, has said at least some of Colstrip's four units could keep operating if the state can cut emissions in other areas.

Four plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

WPXI News - Pittsburgh braces for waves of demonstrations, marches on EPA rules

Updated: 7:30 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2014

Posted: 5:40 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2014

PITTSBURGH — Downtown traffic could snarl by midday Thursday when thousands of miners and their union allies are poised to march in Pittsburgh's streets in opposition to a federal plan to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The march is timed to coincide with the first day of the Environmental Protection Agency's two-day public hearing on its Clean Power Plan in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building. The proposal to limit carbon emissions has triggered impassioned national debate between the energy sector and environmentalists over retaining jobs and addressing pollution.

Groups on both sides plan large-scale events to drive home their messages.

Just as thousands of commuters settle into their workdays, as many as 5,000 members and supporters of the United Mine Workers of America will arrive on charter buses about 11 a.m. and gather at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for a rally. About noon, the group will start walking to the federal building.

City officials agreed to block streets to vehicular traffic to accommodate marchers.

Tim McNulty, spokesman for Mayor Bill Peduto, said Downtown workers, residents and drivers should be “prepared for heavy traffic disruption.” Some parking spots may be unavailable, McNulty said, though he could not cite numbers or locations.

On any given day, at least 113,110 people work Downtown, though the actual number of commuters is much greater because of business meetings, consumers, students and event attendees, the Downtown Pittsburgh Partnership said. They utilize many of the 28,500 parking spaces Downtown.

At the August Wilson Center, Downtown, environmental advocacy groups PennFuture, the Sierra Club and others will rally at 11 a.m. in support of the EPA proposal. They say carbon pollution damages the environment and public health. Event organizers expect hundreds to attend. Peduto is one of several scheduled speakers.

Those touting coal as an essential fuel for jobs, industries and the electricity that powers everyday life began assembling on Wednesday.

“We need you to convince the people in Washington that we truly need an all-of-the-above — and below-the-ground — philosophy when it comes to energy,” Gov. Tom Corbett told a crowd of about 500 at a four-hour event defending “coal country” at Highmark Stadium in the South Side.

Organized by the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and other groups, the rally drew West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor.

The UMW obtained a special-event permit for Thursday's march, city officials said.

The union's spokesman, Phil Smith, said the group includes 70 buses of members who began arriving on Wednesday evening from Midwest states and Alabama. Most were staying outside of the city, he said. More protesters from West Virginia and Ohio were scheduled to arrive on Thursday.

During the march, buses will wait at a large parking lot in the Hill District before incrementally heading back to the convention center, Smith said.

The march will snake down Penn Avenue and onto Ninth Street, then up Liberty Avenue

toward the federal building via Seventh and Grant streets. After a brief demonstration, protesters are expected to head back to the convention center on Tenth Street.

McNulty said police will monitor events to “ensure that protesters and members of the public are safe.” He would not say how many officers will be patrolling, but emphasized that the city has prepared to handle the demonstrations.

“The city has a long history of hosting rallies and protests, and we don't shy away from that,” he said. “In fact, we welcome it.”

Paul Lazzaro, an owner of Monte Cello Restaurant along the march route, was unaware of the plans. He wasn't too worried about a traffic jam because most lunchtime business comes from pedestrians.

“These things have happened in the past,” Lazzaro said. “Everybody was outside with plaques and signs. Then they put their signs away and came to eat.”

Trib Town - 2 days of public hearings on proposed EPA coal pollution rules set to begin in Pittsburgh

By JOE MANDAK Associated Press

First Posted: July 31, 2014 - 6:37 am

Last Updated: July 31, 2014 - 6:40 am

PITTSBURGH — Two days of public hearings were set to begin in Pittsburgh on stricter pollution rules for coal-burning power plants proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Similar hearings were held earlier this week in Atlanta, Denver and Washington.

Environmental activists planned at least two events in Pittsburgh to support the regulations to combat what they say is man-made climate change caused by carbon-based pollution. Meanwhile, the United Mine Workers of America was planning a march and rally to oppose the rules which they say will force some power plants to close, cost miners and others their jobs, and make the nation's electricity supply less reliable.

The EPA is also taking written comments on the rules through Oct. 16 before it decides whether to enact them as written, or change them based on public input.

To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: Smith, Dylan[Smith.Dylan@epa.gov]
From: Durley, Kamari
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 6:23:47 PM
Subject: Denver Hearing Clip

Power Mag- EPA Public Hearing on Carbon Pollution Standards Draws More "Public" than Power Industry Speakers

07/30/2014 | Gail Reitenbach

Interest in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) carbon pollution standards for existing power plants—the "Clean Power Plan," proposed under the authority of the Clean Air Act Section 111(d)—was so high that the agency had to add double the days and double the rooms at all four locations this week. At all locations, power industry speakers were in the minority—not because they were outnumbered, but because they simply didn't choose to participate. But that doesn't mean the hearings lacked value or interest. Testimony from a former coal miner, coal industry groups, members of the military, an Olympic medal holder, a climate scientist, environmental groups, and individual citizens demonstrated the range of views on the proposal and the health, climate, and economic stakes.

The hearings, scheduled for Denver, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C., were originally scheduled to be held on a single day at each location. A couple of weeks after the schedule was announced, each site added a day, EPA Media Affairs Officer Lisa McClain Vanderpool told *POWER*on July 28. All locations also added a second hearing room. More than 200 people were registered to speak on both July 29 and 30 in Denver.

Advocacy groups both for and against the proposed standards, from the Sierra Club to Americans for Prosperity, held rallies and press events at other locations on hearing days, where they spoke largely to those who share their views. Inside the hearing rooms, EPA staff heard a mix of views—and not just from the extremes. (Note that the comments addressed in this story reflect just those heard in one of the two rooms on the first day of the hearing.)

Most attendees at the Denver hearing were from Colorado, but they also came from several other states, including Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, California, Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky, and New York.

Although the speaker lineup for the Denver hearings in the EPA's new Region 8 offices changed over the 24 hours prior to and during the sessions (due to no-shows and substitutions), the preliminary posting of speakers at all locations showed that power industry stakeholders were a small minority of those registered to speak.

Power Industry Largely Silent

Among the few power generating company representatives who did show up was Michael Hutcheson, an environmental engineer for Ameren, which serves Missouri and Illinois. Ameren, he said in his five-minute comments, believes the rule is legally and technically flawed and will cause higher customer costs and economic damage to the country. Hutcheson described Ameren's efforts to reduce emissions, including installing scrubbers and improving efficiency.

"We have made progress in reducing our carbon footprint," Hutcheson said, and the company is adding more renewables, combined cycle capacity, energy efficiency, and retiring coal "at the end of its useful life," and adding plans for more nuclear. Ameren can achieve a 30% reduction "over a slightly longer time frame" with less cost than the EPA's plan, he said. Hutcheson also suggested the EPA should eliminate the "aggressive interim goals" that begin in 2020 and replace them with a plan for states to come up with a "glide path" for those goals. States should have flexibility to extend the final goal past 2030 for "reliability concerns and rate shock." Ameren believes it could meet the goals by 2035.

Later in the day, I spoke with Hutcheson about the scarcity of other generating companies at the hearings. He said that after the second day was added, he was told he couldn't speak because there were no open slots, but he traveled to Denver anyhow and got a 9:45 slot. Ameren also sent speakers to the D.C. and Pittsburgh hearings and is submitting written comments.

"We're still looking at the rule," he said. Other power companies are likely also spending time with lawyers and other advisors parsing the details of the proposal before going on the record with comments. Other generators Ameren has talked to are submitting written comments, so they saw no reason to make oral comments, Hutcheson said.

Co-ops and Munis Particularly Concerned

The one industry cluster that was most visible at the Denver hearing was cooperatives and municipal utilities, which are concerned that their members and customers will be exposed to rate shock should the proposed rule be finalized.

Troy DeJoode, with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, said their main concern is one of complexity and timelines. "I'm not here to debate the rules," he said. "It's simply a matter of practicality," noting that he appreciates "the flexibility that EPA has provided the states." He said his group would provide more details in written comments on rate impacts, stranded costs, and other issues.

Rick Gordon, representing Tri-state Generation and Transmission Association, which provides power to 44 electric co-ops, said those co-ops have some of the poorest consumers. He suggested that farmers trying to irrigate their fields and mothers trying to raise their children will pay the price of the regulation. He expressed concern that there was "no consideration of the cooperative model" in the proposed rule, because co-ops cannot recover costs, as regulated utilities can. Because of the former ban on natural gas generation when Tri-State was expanding, co-ops don't have much gas capacity in their portfolios. He also commented that "EPA may not have the legal authority" to propose the plan, which "expands EPA authority." As did others in the power industry, he called for a "more reasonable timeline."

Dan Hodges of Colorado Springs Utilities, a municipal utility that owns and operates coal, gas, and hydro plants, shared several concerns. Among them, he said that building blocks 3 and 4 and maybe 2 are not necessarily supported by the law. He also feels the proposal timeline is very rushed and puts a burden on utilities to come up with a budget and plan. He shared concern about "errors in the plan" like nameplate capacity (which the EPA used) versus actual certified operating capacity. The push toward gas generation also poses challenges. One gas power plant uses about as much gas as all the gas used in Colorado Springs now, he said, so there are implications for gas demand. He asked the EPA to consider a less-stringent interim goal and said he was concerned residents will get hit by gas increases on both home heating and electricity bills if there are changes in the gas market.

Not all co-ops are against the plan. Megan Gillman, vice president of the Board of Directors of Holy Cross Energy, an electric co-op for the Vail and Aspen area, explained that her utility is moving toward lower-intensity energy. Its 20% renewables by 2015 goal has already been met. She recognizes that power generation resources vary by region, but "climate change is not a local issue." She asked the EPA to consider combustion of vented methane. Holy Cross has partnered with an active coal mine in western Colorado on such a project, but they are concerned that it will count as an increase in carbon emissions for them, not a decrease. She asked the EPA to enable innovative approaches and to consider lifecycle carbon emissions for biomass projects involving woody biomass (of which there is a lot, due to pine beetle kill in the state). She also asked that the EPA ensure accounting for early action.

Tom Smith, director of the nonprofit Public Citizen's Texas office, said he is also a member of an electric co-op. "The cost of *inaction* is far too high," he said, citing the costs of crop losses and failures due to drought and wildfires; health impacts, including diseases coming back that had previously been eliminated; the cost of asthma going up; and escalating insurance costs for flood and fire. "No state has the ability to benefit more [from the rules] … than Texas," he said, because of its large role in renewables and natural gas. About 120,000 people are employed in the renewable industry in Texas, he said, and only about 23,000 in the coal industry—"and we mine and burn a lot of coal in Texas," he added. A public utility commissioner had asked him to suggest going back to 2005 for the baseline. He said he thinks co-ops need a separate subsection for their own implementation plans.

Coal Industry and Workers Not Necessarily Aligned

One of the starkest contrasts of the day came right at the beginning. EPA staff indicated that speakers were scheduled according to when they registered, though no-shows and substitutions altered that schedule throughout the hearing. Nevertheless, back-to-back five-minute comments by John S. Kinkaid, Robert Emery, and Stanley Sturgill essentially marked the opposing sides.

Moffatt County (Colorado) Commissioner Kinkaid was one of the rare few who invoked the EPA's "war on coal" in his remarks and said it would affect his county's economy. "Coal lifts people out of poverty," he said. The $85,000/year jobs provided by coal mining can't be replaced by job retraining, he argued. Kinkaid also spoke out against "environmental extremists" and argued that CO_2 is not a pollutant.

Emery, who moved to Colorado from North Carolina to escape the negative effects of coal-fired power plant pollution and whose comments included data from reinsurance giant Munich RE regarding the insurance aspects of climate change, said the fossil energy industry could have been a leader in transitioning the energy economy but wasn't. He and others after him also noted the enormous costs of responding to recent extreme wildfires and flooding in Colorado.

Emery was followed by Sturgill, a retired coal miner who traveled from eastern Kentucky to speak. Sturgill said he knows coal miners need jobs, but maintained that they can be retrained. Sturgill, who said he lives downwind from 56 coal-fired units in Kentucky, has black lung, COPD, and other respiratory ailments. He said he was speaking for the health of the citizens of Kentucky and commented that the proposed rule is "a mere lean" in the right direction. The EPA, he said, is giving states and coal plants too many breaks. "EPA," he concluded, "we're dying—literally dying for you to help us."

Greg Schaefer, vice president of external affairs for Arch Coal's western operations, spoke a bit later. He is nearing retirement and wonders about the industry's future. He said he's concerned that many are trying to shut down the industry without regard for jobs and incomes. Mining operations in Wyoming pay up to $32.90 an hour, he said. His son is a haul truck driver, and other family members are also involved in the coal industry. "EPA is asking a lot from families like mine," he said, especially as the rule won't do much for climate change, as it's a global problem. Schaefer also talked about how the coal industry supports Wyoming schools and asked the EPA to withdraw the proposal.

Jonathan Downing, with the Wyoming Mining Association, a statewide trade association for 39 members mining coal, bentonite, and other materials, questioned the EPA's legal authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants and warned of overreliance on natural gas.

Health, Environmental, and Agricultural Concerns

Individual speakers and those representing groups addressed health issues related to "traditional" coal plant emissions as well as health conditions that are exacerbated by the effects of climate change—from increased heat to increased pests and pollens.

Some spoke purely about generalized concern for the future of children and grandchildren. Others included data in their comments about environmental and health impacts of climate change that they hoped to see mitigated by the EPA's proposed rule.

Speakers affiliated with the Sierra Club were among the most visible, thanks to their aqua-colored tee shirts bearing the message "I [heart] Clean Air." In the week leading up to the hearing, the Sierra Club made a "high five-figure investment" in a radio campaign designed to get folks out to the hearings. Several speakers were registered to speak at all hearings, but in Denver, there appeared to be additional members in attendance as well.

James Hughes, the first Sierra Club speaker, argued that "The EPA is a mouse trying to put out

the fire" in light of the greater power held by the fossil fuel industry.

Bill Corcoran, western regional director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, spoke against the "useful life of coal plants" approach and said the climate can't wait for the end of that useful life. He urged 35% to 40% emissions reductions from coal plants rather than the proposed 30%. He doesn't want to see incentives for natural gas and nuclear and said wind and solar are growing in capacity. He argued that the EPA underestimated renewable energy growth opportunities.

Jaime Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Know Best, thanked the EPA. She commented that Coloradans are protective of the outdoors. One-third of hospital visits for children in Colorado are due to lung conditions, she said. "We all have a moral obligation to protect our kids."

Ronnie Citron-Fink, a parent and teacher representing Moms Clean Air Force, traveled from New York to share concern about children with asthma. Climate change is making conditions worse for respiratory conditions, she said.

Cindy Liverance, vice president of programs for the American Lung Association in Denver, is asthmatic and has children with respiratory issues. "We need the Clean Power Plan to protect public health," she told EPA staff. She has to watch outdoor levels of air pollution before engaging in outdoor activities and noted that kids with asthma can't always play outside at school. When 85 kids with respiratory conditions at "Champ Camp" were asked, they all said they want clean air and "don't understand why adults keep it dirty."

Dr. Patrick O'Herron, a practicing trauma and acute care surgeon from Oregon, said he was "speaking for thousands" of health care practitioners. He commented on issues of food and water security as well as air- and water-borne diseases. He asked if the plan is the best the EPA can do to protect the health of citizens.

Steve Szbao, a farmer from Longmont, Colo., talked about his personal experience of seeing the benefits of the acid rain program and said he's worried about weather effects on crop production in the future.

Mark Fix, Montana rancher and irrigator, thanked the EPA for the rule and shared his experiences with "climate weirding." He is a wildfire survivor and also saw a tornado with over 90 mph winds hit his farm last year. He is still cleaning up downed cottonwoods from that event. Fix lost 10% of his heifer calves from sickness and a long winter and detailed the impacts on cattle of unusual freezing and flooding. Those in agriculture have to deal with the weather every day, he said, so "it's an economic and environmental imperative" for the rule. Fix is a co-op member and said a focus on coal has put his supplier into bankruptcy.

Though attendees were cautioned not to jeer or cheer, out of respect for all speakers and to keep the hearing moving, there was one instance of laughter. Eric Larsen is a polar explorer—"a job you've probably never heard about"—with a 72-day no-shower record (which elicited the laughter). "I'm pretty much average in every way," he claimed, before explaining that he was

just back from his "Last North" expedition. He has completed more polar expeditions than any other American in history and goes because "they may not be there" in the future. His expeditions are designed to "connect people to the last great frozen places" and to catalog places for the record. "We are all average people" but have the ability to do amazing things, like reducing carbon emissions, he concluded.

Firefighters Concerned

John Lauer was one of two firefighters on Tuesday who spoke in support of the proposed rule. Lauer, a wildland firefighter, cited studies that point to increasing wildfire risk. Though wildfire is natural, a "natural" wildfire moves slowly, he said, but today we have "super fires" moving at an explosive rate, destroying the soil and everything in its path. Lauer fought the Gila Fire, the largest in New Mexico history. He spoke of the cost of fires, including property and human life loss. Proposed regulations reduce the odds of conditions that lead to these fires, he commented. He also spoke well of those in the coal industry who "should be fully supported" in a transition to a new future.

The Military Perspective

Hal Bidlack, speaking as an individual, is a former member of the U.S. Air Force, holds a PhD from Michigan, worked at the White House on energy security issues, and taught at the Air Force Academy, among other professional accomplishments. "We shouldn't wait to address looming threats," he said. He believes too many American leaders have waited too long to address the climate change threat. The military, however, gets it. There are three challenges for Pentagon, he outlined:

- Climate change is a threat multiplier. It will cause resources to become more scarce. Extreme weather events have already required military response, including to the 2013 typhoon Haiyanin the Philippines.
- Climate change will affect homeland security. The effects of climate change affect Colorado, not just polar regions, he noted. The Waldo Canyon fire came within a mile of his home. No single event is proof of climate change, he acknowledged, but the accumulation of them is.
- Climate change presents a challenge to military bases around the world. Bidlack mentioned Camp Pendleton evacuations due to extreme weather.

Military planners customarily operate with incomplete knowledge, he observed. After citing Dick Cheney's "1% doctrine" (if there's even a 1% chance of a terrorist act, that justifies action), he observed that too many leaders dismiss overwhelming science showing that climate change is real.

Job Losses Feared—From the Rule and From Climate Change

The arguments about anticipated job losses and electricity cost increases resulting from the proposed standards are familiar and were addressed by coal industry speakers. But speakers representing other groups and industries argued that unless coal generation is curtailed, many

other industries will experience catastrophic economic losses. The ski industry was among those representing that side of the issue.

Kaylin Richardson, a pro skier and two-time Olympian, said that over the last 20 years she had been observing climate change and not realizing it. She has trained on glaciers in France and Austria that are disappearing. At the 2010 Winter Olympic games in Vancouver, it wouldn't get to freezing, which made for scary conditions for competitors. Last year, while in Norway to film a ski movie for Warren Miller Entertainment, there was no bitter cold—above the Arctic Circle. Another year, it rained in Norway in February, she said. And in Colorado, the spring melt season starts two months earlier than historically. She said she's concerned not just about the loss of great skiing conditions but about business and job losses that result from shorter ski seasons.

Liz Mcintyre, a three-time winter Olympian and member of the National Ski Hall of Fame, among other kudos, lives in Grand County, Colo., and purchases power from a co-op. She said the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is shutting out the voices of many on this issue. "A well-conceived plan is necessary to achieve desired results," she argued. She commented that she had skied on a glacier in France that has now disappeared. To industry, she asked, "what have you been doing for the last 40 years? Is keeping the power on enough?"

Catharine McCormick, of the Natural Resources Defense Council, focused on the experience of Iowa, the leader in wind generation. Mid-America Energy will invest even more in wind in the state to increase wind to 40% of its portfolio, she said. Iowa also has some of the cheapest rates in the country and has attracted Facebook and other tech company data centers. She called for more energy efficiency in the plan, which creates jobs in installation and retrofits.

Chris Votoupal, deputy director of Colorado Cleantech Association, said that group's members are involved in using all forms of energy and are in support of the proposed regulations. The association has technologies to help assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all the areas, from gas technology to demand side management, he said. Regarding the cost impacts of the policy, he (like many others) argued that the cost of coal generation doesn't take into account health effects of coal-fired generation or costs of drought, fire, and floods. The same arguments about cost were raised with previous regulations, he noted, but the higher rates did not materialize.

Moral Oral Arguments

Various religious groups were represented at all four hearing locations.

In Denver, Jim White introduced himself as "a person of science and faith" who is involved with the Lutheran advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He's also a full professor at the University of Colorado and has studied ice cores, is a highly cited author (the top half of 1%, he said), and a climate scientist. "At its core, climate change is a moral issue," he commented, one that creates an "intergenerational inequity," as future generations will suffer the consequences. Climate change also has a disproportional impact on poorer people, he observed, before quoting Christ: "Whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me." The proposed plan won't resolve all the problems, but is a start, he concluded.

A Colorado Focus on Climate Change Impacts and Generation Mix Shift

Matt Jones, Colorado state senator, spoke about the 169 houses lost in Colorado's 2010 Fourmile Fire in Boulder County, which he fought. That was only one of several recent Colorado wildfires, he noted. He emphasized that it's not just a Colorado issue. Firefighters are not climate change deniers, he said, citing a *60 Minutes* episode on wildfires.

Last year, Jones' district also experienced an unprecedented flood that damaged 28,000 dwellings and resulted in $3.36 billion in damage. The county is considering a sales tax increase to pay for some of the damage. Jones said it will be cheaper to act now on moving to cleaner power sources than to continue responding to the effects of climate change.

But Colorado isn't alone in experiencing extreme weather events. Karen Hadden, from Texas, asked the EPA to strengthen the rule. She commented on heat extremes in Texas as well as wildfires and floods in Austin—including an unexpected flash flood that was the worst since the 1800s. Many power co-ops, she noted, are opponents of the proposed rule but could benefit from the rule, she argued. She asked that renewable credits be allowed to be sold across state borders and for nuclear power incentives to be cut because nuclear power is "not clean and not affordable."

Jerry Tinianow, Denver's chief sustainability officer, said the city wants to know if it will get credit for what it's already done and expects the rule will provide an economic benefit to the Denver region.

Max Tyler, chairman of the House Transportation and Energy Committee for Colorado, said that because of what the state has done in the past 10 years (mostly in terms of increasing renewable generation), it is well on the way to meeting the EPA goals. He asked the EPA to hold to the 2012 baseline "because the bar is too low at the 30%." He believes the private sector "can accomplish this with little effect." In reference to John Kincaid's comments about Western Slope generation, he noted that the skies may be clear in Craig, Colo., but its coal plant pumps out more carbon pollution than any other stationary source in Colorado. He argued that maximizing profit is a legitimate mission for coal companies and utilities but not for the EPA, and concluded that Colorado's shift to a cleaner portfolio has been much more cost-effective than anticipated.

Renewables Promoted as Coal Alternative

Several speakers commented that renewables had the ability to supplant coal for power generation. In addition to various environmental groups, a solar industry representative, and individuals, business and civic groups spoke in favor of renewables.

Among them was a representative of the employee-owned New Belgium Brewing Co., a Colorado company that has solar photovoltaic panels on its roofs and that taxes itself for coal power used. It's also working with the city of Fort Collins on demand response and other energy efficiency measures. "Regulation is required to create appropriate market signals" for cleaner power, the speaker said, noting that Fort Collins was the first city in the state to pass a renewable

portfolio standard.

Kyla Maki, with Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena, called for increasing Montana's emissions reduction targets based on the state's renewable energy potential. She said Montana's emission reduction target is the second lowest proposed by the EPA's plan but thinks the state's wind energy potential, which is second in the country, should be factored in.

Among the individuals speaking in favor of the proposed plan was Andrew Lane, who said his Army unit won't let him wear his uniform to the hearing, but he brought it with him. Lane, who is also a graduate student at Arizona State University, said those in support of this plan are not "extremists" and noted that the U.S. military is going green. By 2016, the Navy will use 50% renewable fuels. "For anyone who denies climate science, I don't know where you are," he said.

Carbon Tax Advocates

Several speakers encouraged the EPA to make a carbon tax at the state level an option in its final rule. They noted that economists, politicians, and scientists have concurred that a carbon tax is the best method of reducing emissions, so they are surprised it wasn't included in the plan. Some noted that anything labeled a tax seems to have an impossible time of passage at the federal level, but there seems to be greater potential for a carbon tax if handled at the state level.

Catherine Caruthers of Environmental Tax Reform U.S. was among those who cited a report by Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI) that suggests a carbon tax may be a faster, cheaper way to get to the EPA's goals.

Susan Seacord of Sierra Club said a "well-designed carbon tax" would protect families from rising costs and actually add jobs if monies are returned to the public, citing the REMI study as well as British Columbia's experience with a carbon tax.

The Public Was Heard at Public Hearings

At the start of Tuesday's hearings, Sean McGrath, regional administrator for EPA Region 8, noted that more than 300,000 comments on the proposed carbon pollution standard had been received to date. "There are no special comments or special groups," McGrath said, reminding attendees that comments can also be made online until October 16. The EPA values the diversity of opinion, he said. "Even if you don't agree with the speaker, please respect them."

Though various sources predicted that the hearings would be contentious, heated, and require a passport to gain entry, in my eight hours at the Denver hearing, I didn't hear any cheering or jeering in the building, and I didn't need a passport to enter.

Kamari Durley

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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durley.kamari@epa.gov

To: Smith, Roxanne[Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: Levy, Jeffrey[Levy.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Younes, Lina
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 6:07:01 PM
Subject: Scheduled social media for July 31st in English and Spanish
073114 Scheduled social media in Eng and Sp for Jul 31 2014.xlsx

8:30AM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
9:30AM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
10:30AM	Students: Got a good green infrastructure design? Enter our 2014 Campus RainWorks Challenge. http://go.usa.gov/5wYk	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
10:35AM	Have some thoughts on our proposed Clean Power Plan? We want to hear from you: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
10:45 AM	Enjoy our YouTube videos? Subscribe to our channel to see them all.	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
11:00AM	Subscribe to our YouTube channel for more information on how we protect your health. www.youtube.com/usepagov	Twitter, Spanish Twitter
11:30AM	Did you know we have over 65,000 digital and 1,500 print documents that you can get for free? www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish Tw, Spanish FB
11:35AM	How to submit your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:00PM	Being our administrator is no average job! Sneak a peek at a day in the life of Gina McCarthy.	Google+, FB
12:30PM	Need educational, technical or scientific materials? We've got thousands of documents that you can get for free. www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
12:35PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
1:00PM	Being our administrator is no average job! Sneak a peek at a day in the life of Gina McCarthy. http://go.usa.gov/9CCB	Twitter, Spanish Twitter
1:30PM	Need educational, technical or scientific materials? We've got thousands of documents that you can get for free. www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
1:35PM	Have some thoughts on our proposed Clean Power Plan? We want to hear from you: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
2:00PM	We successfully banned most uses of a household pesticide called Dursban on June 1, 2000. http://go.usa.gov/9hb3 #EPAhistory	Twitter, Google+, FB

2:30PM	How to submit your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
3:00PM	Our top 100 Green Power Partners are using over 23,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable energy annually.	Google+, FB, Spanish FB
3:30PM	We want to hear everyone's comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan. Here's how to submit yours: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
4:00PM	Working outdoors? Don't get too hot! Share your tips and tricks for preventing heat exhaustion using #EPAtips.	Twitter, Google+, FB
4:30PM	We'll have 1600 speakers at our #CleanPowerPlan hearings, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Here's how to comment: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
5:30PM	All of the speaker slots are filled up for our Clean Power Plan hearings. We want to hear from you, though, at: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
6:30PM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
7:30PM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
8:30 PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
9:00PM	Being out in the sun can get exhausting ... and cause heat exhaustion. Share your tips for staying safe during hot weather using #EPAtips.	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB

Lina Younes

Multilingual Communications Liaison

Office of Web Communications

US Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC 20460

202-564-9924

Visit EPA's Spanish portal at www.epa.gov/espanol

Facebook.com/epaespanol

Twitter.com/epaespanol

Blog.epa.gov/espanol

To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Terry, Sara[Terry.Sara@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: McMichael, Nate
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 2:48:26 AM
Subject: Fw: 111(d) Public Hearing News Clips July 29, 2014
Atlanta.JPG
IMG_20140729_094011.jpg
IMG_20140729_093934.jpg

Fyi- news from Atlanta.

Nate McMichael
USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
202 564 0382 (o)
202 236 4176 (c)
Original Message
From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 8:44 PM
To: McCabe, Janet; McMichael, Nate; Stewart, Lori; Goffman, Joseph; Dennis, Allison; Allen, Laura; Purchia, Liz; Noonan, Jenny; Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Ashley, Jackie
Subject: Fw: 111(d) Public Hearing News Clips July 29, 2014

News from Atlanta is below. A very smooth day. Oaqps and the region did a great job managing the hearing. Jan got two hugs and a bow tie, so definitely a success! I'll let her explain the bow tie :).

Heather was very pleased with the way the day went and even came out for dinner with the team. She felt very honored that we had asked region 4 to be a host for one of the hearings.

The biggest event of the day was the march that ended outside the hotel organized by the environmental groups (see attached pic).

I'm also attaching pics from the hearing rooms. Joe's quote of the day about the team and the venue "they really made it look like plan b, was plan a."

Thanks to everyone on the ground here and looking forward to day two!

AD

Original Message
From: Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 7:51 PM
To: Lincoln, Larry; Allen, Laura; McTeerToney, Heather; Banister, Beverly; Kemker, Carol; Gettle, Jeaneanne; Drinkard, Andrea
Cc: Harris-Young, Dawn; McDonald, Jason
Subject: 111(d) Public Hearing News Clips July 29, 2014

http://us.vocuspr.com/Publish/518041/Forward_518041_1662576.htm?Email=harris-young.dawn%40epa.gov&Date=7%2f29%2f2014+7%3a34%3a03+PM

News Headline: Area businesses say sustainable practices pay off; some unions, politicians wary of carbon limits |
http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2014/jul/29/local-businesses-say-sustainable-practices-pay/

Outlet Full Name: Chattanooga Times Free Press - Online
News Text: As the Environmental Protection Agency prepares to conduct hearings today on controversial new carbon limits for power plants, Chattanooga business leaders Monday voiced support for such pollution controls and energy limits.

During a session with EPA's regional administrator Monday organized by the White House Business Council, local restaurateurs, utility leaders and tourism representatives said Chattanooga's history of cutting pollution and growing its economy demonstrates the business case for a cleaner environment.

"We know from our experience that going green makes good business sense and doing the right thing helps our bottom line," said Elizabeth Hammit, administrator of environmental policy for EPB, the city-owned electric utility in Chattanooga.

News Headline: Coal deemed too 'dirty' for America heads overseas |
http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/kyle-wingfield/2014/jul/29/coal-deemed-too-dirty-america-heads-overseas/
Outlet Full Name: Atlanta Journal-Constitution - Online
News Text: Today and tomorrow, the Environmental Protection Agency will hold field hearings about its strict new proposals for power plants in Atlanta, one of just four regional sites around the country to host such a hearing. Interested parties that support or oppose the new rules will offer testimony. And then the EPA will do whatever it wants to do proceed toward issuing a final rule.

As I've explained before, the economics of this new rule are bad, and the environmental benefits aren't even clear-cut. One reason for the latter is that the likely result of reducing coal use here is the increased export of coal abroad -- to countries with power plants that probably will use it less efficiently and thus will create more carbon emissions. This is the logical outcome, and now there's evidence it's the actual outcome, too, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Newport News, Va.:

News Headline: Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta |
http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html?iana=ind_green
Outlet Full Name: Atlanta Business Chronicle - Online
News Text: A federal plan to reduce pollution from coal-fired power plants would reverse climate change and improve the health of respiratory disease sufferers, a parade of environmental activists testified Tuesday.

But two members of the Georgia Public Service Commission told a three-member Environmental Protection Agency panel the EPA's proposal to cut carbon emissions 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 would force Atlanta-based Georgia Power Co. to abandon coal plants the utility is already retrofitting with improved pollution controls, a wasted investment that would force up electric rates.

News Headline: Tennesseans head to Atlanta for EPA carbon hearings |
http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/environment/2014/07/29/tennesseans-head-atlanta-epa-carbon-hearings/13284097/
Outlet Full Name: Tennessean - Online, The
News Text: Josh Brown, joshbrown@tennessean.com 6:03 a.m. CDT July 29, 2014

TVA s Thomas Cheney, left, and Larry Nathan stand on the roof of the TVA's Gallatin Fossil Plant during a tour. (Photo: Shelley Mays / The Tennessean / File)

Scores of Tennesseans will be at hearings in Atlanta today and Wednesday to voice support for new rules

proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency to cut carbon dioxide emissions at power plants.

The EPA is holding two days of hearings in Atlanta on its plan to cut carbon emissions 30 percent at existing power plants by 2030.

News Headline: Top aide for Gov. Robert Bentley, Luther Strange to testify at EPA's hearing on carbon emissions |
http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/07/top_aide_for_gov_robert_bentle.html
Outlet Full Name: al.com
News Text: Mike Cason | mcason@al.com By Mike Cason | mcason@al.com

on July 29, 2014 at 8:53 AM, updated July 29, 2014 at 8:54 AM

Blaine Galliher

MONTGOMERY, Alabama --- A top aide to Gov. Robert Bentley will testify at a hearing today that proposed restrictions on coal-burning power plants will hurt Alabama, according to a news release from the governor's office.

Blaine Galliher, a former state representative from Gadsden who is Bentley's senior advisor, will testify at the Environmental Protection Agency's public hearing in Atlanta.

The EPA has proposed a plan to cut carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent by 2030. Bentley opposes the plan.

In a statement, Bentley said the proposed rules would hurt Alabama's economy and raise electricity rates. He said it could eliminate more than half of the 4,500 coal industry jobs in Alabama.

News Headline: Activists, officials, residents gather in support of Clean Power Plan |
http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20140729/ARTICLES/140729610/?Title=Activists-officials-residents-gather-in-support-of-Clean-Power-Plan
Outlet Full Name: Wilmington Star-News - Online
News Text: Environmental activists, elected officials and a handful of area residents gathered in downtown Wilmington Tuesday morning to encourage support for a federal proposal to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

“I find that many people are coming here for the quality of life, the quality of water, the quality of air,” New Hanover County Commissioner Jonathan Barfield said at the rally, held by nonprofit organization Climate Parents. “It's important that we ... do everything we can to take care of that.”

The Clean Power Plan, unveiled by the Environmental Protection Agency last month at the direction of President Obama, would set individual emission reduction rates for each state. The proposal would also give states the flexibility to manage their own pollution reduction plans, either alone or by partnering with other states.

News Headline: EPA Holds First Of Two Hearings In Atlanta On Proposed Carbon Rule |
http://wabe.org/post/epa-holds-first-two-hearings-atlanta-proposed-carbon-rule
Outlet Full Name: WABE-FM - Online
News Text: State Rep. Mary Margaret Olive, D-Decatur, spoke in favor of EPA's proposal Tuesday at Centennial Olympic Park.

Hundreds of advocates from across the Southeast descended on Atlanta Tuesday for two days of hearings on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed new rule aimed at cutting carbon emissions from power plants.

Multiple rallies and marches were held near the Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta where the hearing took place. The day took on a convention-like feel, with a full spectrum of stakeholders ready to pitch their ideas.

A food truck rented by the Climate Reality Project, a group founded by Al Gore, set up just outside the hotel along Centennial Olympic Park. Tammy Hui served free Ben and Jerry's ice cream while touting the benefits of EPA's proposal.

News Headline: Governor, scientists say EPA regulations would hurt Alabama |
http://www.myfoxal.com/story/26141843/governor-scientists-say-epa-regulations-would-hurt-alabama
Outlet Full Name: WBRC-TV - Online
News Text: Governor Bentley opposed the regulations that would cut back from carbon emissions.
(Source: MGNOnline)

Governor, scientists say EPA regulations would hurt AlabamaMore>>

Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.More >>

HUNTSVILLE, AL (WAFF) -

The Environmental Protection Agency will hold public hearings across the country Tuesday about proposed regulations that would cut back from carbon emissions.

Governor Robert Bentley strongly opposed the regulations on Twitter.

"The new plan will hurt the Alabama economy and force us to comply with mandates that could result in higher electricity bills for Alabama," he said.

The governor sent his senior advisor to the hearings in Atlanta to testify on the negative impact the new regulations could have on Alabamians.

News Headline: In GOP South, pushback against Obama climate rules |
http://www.ajc.com/ap/ap/georgia/in-gop-south-pushback-against-obama-climate-rules/ngqPJ/
Outlet Full Name: Atlanta Journal-Constitution - Online
News Text: In the Republican-heavy Southeast, critics said Tuesday that a plan by President Barack Obama's administration to cut pollution would raise electricity prices, result in job losses and may not significantly curtail the carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

The criticism came as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held the first of two days of public hearings in Atlanta, Denver and Washington on the plan, which would force a 30 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 2030 from levels seen in 2005. Federal officials have never before tried to restrict carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

For critics, the hearings in Atlanta and Denver offered a chance to attack the proposed rules in states that are heavily Republican or historically dependent on coal mining and coal-burning power plants. Coal usage is already falling in some states. Georgia, for example, once produced more than half of its

electricity from coal-fired plants, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. But coal produced just over a third of the state's energy in April.

News Headline: Rallies Held Downtown For and Against Proposed EPA Regulations | http://wabe.org/post/rallies-held-downtown-and-against-proposed-epa-regulations
Outlet Full Name: WABE-FM - Online
News Text: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took public comments in Atlanta on proposed carbon regulations today.

Proponents and opponents of these regulations voiced their opinions at rallies downtown.

Environmental activists from across the Southeast hoisted signs reading "Climate Action Now" in Woodruff park at the "Rally for Clean Energy."

GreenLaw organized the event, which included speakers, testimony and music.

Theater technician Kevin McKinney participated in the rally and march to Centennial Park. He explained the EPA carbon regulations are crucial for the future.

"We are pushing our climate past levels we have seen during the entire existence of the human race practically," McKinney said. "That's admittedly a worst case scenario and that's admittedly a while off, but that's the direction we're going so we have to change course now because it's not a trivial task."

News Headline: South leads pushback against Obama climate rules | http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2014/07/29/south-leads-pushback-against-obama-climate-rules/13327511/
Outlet Full Name: Clarion-Ledger - Online
News Text: Critics says the plan will increase energy prices and result in job losses

Critics says the plan will increase energy prices and result in job losses

Check out this story on clarionledger.com: http://on.thec-l.com/1mZVgCz

South leads pushback against Obama climate rules

3:16 p.m. CDT July 29, 2014

Bob Reid, of Atlanta, wears a shirt protesting the Environmental Protection Agency during a rally in response to an EPA hearing on tougher pollution restrictions, Tuesday, July 29, 2014, in Atlanta. Utility and coal companies are expected to argue Tuesday against proposals from the Obama administration that would force a 30 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2030 from 2005 levels. The EPA is holding three public hearings on the proposal in Atlanta, Denver and Washington. (AP Photo/David Goldman)(Photo: David Goldman ASSOCIATED PRESS)

ATLANTA (AP) — In the Republican-heavy Southeast, critics said Tuesday that a plan by President Barack Obama's administration to cut pollution would raise electricity prices, result in job losses and may not significantly curtail the carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

The criticism came as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held the first of two days of public hearings in Atlanta, Denver and Washington on the plan, which would force a 30 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 2030 from levels seen in 2005. Federal officials have never before tried to restrict carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

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To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:13:57 PM
Subject: FW: EPA Field Hearings: Report on activities
CAC Daily Hearings Report_2014 07 29 final.pdf

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:55 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Goffman, Joseph; McCabe, Janet; Johnson, Alisha; Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: EPA Field Hearings: Report on activities

Team – Attached is a CAC report on some of the earned and paid media activities that various external stakeholders have organized so far around the hearings. Also, below in text is an **unofficial** testimony tracker that outlines the number of positive and negative statements made at today's hearing in the 9am to 2pm window.

All reports — 9am - 2pm

•□□□□□□□□ ATLANTA (info collected from just one of the hearing rooms)

- 33 in favor
- 7 against

•□□□□□□□□ WASHINGTON DC (info collected from both hearing rooms)

- 84 in favor

- 14 against

- DENVER (info collected from both hearing rooms)
  - 43 in favor
  - 7 negative
  - 1 mixed

To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: BNA Highlights
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:06:26 PM
Subject: Jul 29 -- BNA, Inc. Daily Environment Report - Breaking News

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Breaking News

Rule Would Increase Prices With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:20 P.M. ET

By Andrew Childers

An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would drive up electricity costs and cause significant job losses without providing a tangible climate benefit, coal-reliant states and industry groups said today.

“The U.S. cannot go it alone and expect that our actions will have a meaningful climate impact in a world economy that is using more coal and more fossil fuels every day,” Paul Cicio, president of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said at a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on the proposed rule.

Utilities also opposed the EPA's proposal because it would require carbon dioxide emissions reductions through demand reduction programs and investments in renewable energy that may be beyond their control.

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pledged to continue to oppose the EPA's proposed rule in Congress and criticized the agency's failure to hold public listening sessions on the rule in coal-producing states.

Shifting electricity generation from coal to natural gas presents reliability concerns because natural gas cannot be stockpiled, Cicio said. Rising electricity prices could cause more manufacturers to move their operations off shore, which could increase emissions, he said. Cicio said the EPA needs to consider this “carbon leakage” when it tallies the benefits of its proposal.

Power Plant Rule Could Boost Natural Gas Industry, McCabe Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:36 P.M. ET

By Anthony Adragna

Forthcoming carbon pollution standards for existing power plants could generate 1.2 trillion cubic feet more natural gas by 2020 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, the Environmental Protection Agency's top air official said today.

“When done responsibly and safely and carefully and appropriately and knowledgeably, oil and gas resources have

great potential to help this country in terms of spurring economic growth, enhancing our energy security, improving our air quality, our quality of life, our public health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, told the Natural Gas Roundtable.

McCabe's remarks came as the EPA held its first day of hearings on proposed carbon pollution standards for existing power plants. The EPA released its proposed regulations on carbon pollution from existing power plants June 2 under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

McCabe described the natural gas industry as a "very important stakeholder group for EPA in this rule."

Southern States Say EPA Carbon Rule Won't Count Past Efforts

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:03 P.M. ET

By Chris Marr

The Environmental Protection Agency's draft rules on power plant carbon emissions penalize electric utilities for their efforts to comply with prior rules, rather than give them credit for past investments, utility regulators and power industry representatives said at a public hearing in Atlanta today.

From new nuclear reactor construction in Georgia to emission controls equipment at coal-fired power plants in Alabama and Mississippi, utility regulators complained that their states won't get credit for projects that have been completed in recent years or that are now under way. In some cases, coal-fired plants that have received expensive upgrades for compliance purposes might be closed or converted to natural gas soon, officials said.

"The rules keep changing," Brandon Presley, commissioner on the Mississippi Public Service Commission, told EPA staff members. "We've made good investments in Mississippi. We've tried to do what's right, and we ask that you would recognize that."

The proposed rule, issued in draft form June 2, would require each state to design and implement plans for decreasing power plants' carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA has a goal of reducing power plant carbon emissions 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, but its proposal assigns reduction targets for each state—some higher and some lower than 30 percent.

Dozens of environmental advocates spoke largely in favor of EPA's proposal in Atlanta.

Environmentalists Say Clean Power Plan Lacking; Industry Warns on Jobs

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:28 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

Several speakers at the Denver hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed clean power plan today said the proposed rules don't do enough to reduce carbon pollution, while several industry representatives said it will result in job losses.

"The rule should be strengthened to require the percentage of energy produced by renewable energy to be 20 percent by 2020 and 30 percent by 2030," Karen Hadden, executive director of the Sustainable Development and Economic Development Coalition in Austin, Texas, said while testifying at the hearing at the EPA's Region 8 headquarters in Denver. "We cannot afford not to act."

The proposal, announced June 2 by the EPA, is "technically and economically flawed," said Michael Hutcheson, environmental engineer for Ameren Corp., a St. Louis-based utility that provides power to customers in Illinois and Missouri. "It will cause job losses and damage to the economy."

EPA Opposes Texas Motion to Vacate Cross-State Air Rule

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:28 P.M. ET

By Patrick Ambrosio

A federal appeals court should deny a request to vacate the 2011 cross-state emissions rule for power plants as applied to Texas because the time has passed for the state to make such a request, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA, in a reply filed yesterday, said Texas “has not come close” to demonstrating “good cause” that the court should consider a motion for summary vacatur almost three years after the state first sought the court's review of the regulation.

Texas is seeking vacatur of the cross-state rule's application, which the state argued would result in “impermissible over-control” of ozone and fine particulate matter emissions.

The Supreme Court upheld the structure of the cross-state rule in April but left open the possibility that states could bring “as-applied” challenges to the rule in certain cases. The lawsuit has been remanded to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to resolve remaining issues that haven't yet been addressed.

The EPA argued in its reply that Texas failed to show that the merits of its challenges to the cross-state rule are “so clear” that they should be addressed in advance of court consideration of the other issues remaining in the lawsuit.

FERC Commissioners Divided Over Power Plant Rule

Posted July 29, 2014, 1:21 P.M. ET

By Lynn Garner

A House hearing on the first-ever proposal to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants exposed sharp differences among members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the impacts to electric grid reliability, dependence on natural gas-fired generation and on state and regional planning processes.

FERC's three Democrats—Acting Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur, John Norris and Norman Bay, who has not yet been formally sworn in, told the Subcommittee on Energy and Power today that the power plant rule provides enough flexibility and time to adjust electricity market operations in order to comply with the emission targets.

Republican commissioners Philip Moeller and Tony Clark expressed skepticism with the Environmental Protection Agency's assumption that enough pipelines will be built to allow natural gas-fired generation to replace thousands of megawatts of retiring coal generation.

LaFleur and the other commissioners did agree that the EPA should take into consideration a regional approach to reflect the multistate nature of the bulk power grid.

House Republicans questioned whether FERC had sufficient input in the EPA's proposed rule and its impact on electricity markets.

LaFleur said she had one meeting with EPA officials in February. That was followed by five EPA and FERC staff meetings, she said. The other commissioners said they had no consultations with the EPA.

Industry Would Pay for Superfund Under Bill Introduced in Senate

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:21 P.M. ET

By Pat Ware

Legislation that would force industries responsible for contamination of Superfund sites to pay for their cleanup was introduced in the Senate today.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), would reinstate the excise tax on polluting industries to pay for the cleanup of Superfund sites.

It also would expand the definition of crude oil to make oil from tar sands and shales subject to the excise tax. In addition, the legislation would make funds available to the Environmental Protection Agency on an ongoing basis, not subject to annual appropriations.

Sens. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) are co-sponsors of the bill, the Superfund Polluter

Pays Restoration Act.

The “polluter pays” tax that previously funded the Superfund program expired in 1995. The EPA doesn't have adequate resources to clean up the more than 1,300 most polluted sites on the agency's National Priorities List, the Government Accountability Office has said.

Climate Impacts May Restrict National Guard, Reserves, Adviser Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 1:09 P.M. ET

By Dean Scott

A former Defense Department official said today that flooding and other severe weather linked to climate change will put more domestic strains on the National Guard and Reserves, even as an increasingly lean U.S. military expects to rely on them to shoulder more of the burden of future armed conflicts.

Sherri Goodman, a deputy undersecretary of defense from 1993 to 2001, told the Senate Budget Committee that multiple storms affecting the U.S. at the same time could affect troop readiness, as those personnel “are less available to respond to worldwide crises.”

“The frequency, severity and probability that these events could happen simultaneously will also likely increase demand for active duty forces” to support civil authorities, as was done during Hurricane Katrina, according to Goodman, now executive director of the CNA Military Advisory Board.

Nine of the 10 costliest storms in U.S. history have occurred over the last decade, Goodman said.

According to the Defense Department, by fiscal year 2017, Army troop levels are projected to decline by 64,000 and the Marine Corps by 15,000 from fiscal 2012 levels. That would reverse most of the troop buildup needed to fight wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, according to the department’s report, “Defense Budget Priorities and Choices: Fiscal Year 2014.”

EPA to Continue Requiring Greenhouse Gas Controls in Air Permits

Posted July 29, 2014, 12:58 P.M. ET

By Patrick Ambrosio

Major stationary sources that are subject to prevention of significant deterioration construction permit requirements for conventional pollutants will still be required to implement best available control technology requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA, in a memo dated July 24, said those sources remain subject to existing permitting regulations despite a June ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that removed greenhouse gas permitting requirements for certain sources of pollution.

The court ruled that while the EPA can require greenhouse gas controls for major stationary sources that trigger permitting requirements for conventional pollutants, a facility's greenhouse gas emissions alone don't trigger PSD or title V permitting requirements.

The agency also said that it doesn't intend to continue processing permit applications for sources if greenhouse gases are the only pollutant that would trigger the permitting requirements. For existing permits issued solely based on greenhouse gas emissions, the agency's “general thinking” is that it may be appropriate to eventually remove greenhouse gas control language from those permits and convert the permits to “minor source” permits when feasible, according to the memo.

California, Mexico Sign Pacts on Clean Energy, Climate Policies

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:23 P.M. ET

By Carolyn Whetzel

California will work with Mexican officials to advance cross-border investments in clean energy under a bilateral pact announced today.

California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and Mexico's Secretary of Energy Pedro Joaquin Coldwell signed the Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together on clean energy research and developing and deploying renewable energy and biofuel projects.

The agreement also includes a commitment to explore integrating Baja California Norte into California's energy market and support expanded markets for clean and energy-efficient technologies, including manufacturing and transportation.

Brown's energy pact with Mexico comes a day after he signed an agreement with the Mexican environmental officials to cooperate on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change.

California's governor is visiting Mexico with a delegation of state officials, business leaders and representatives from nongovernmental organizations to foster cross-border trade and investments.

White House Opposes Endangered Species Act Changes

Posted July 29, 2014, 12:55 P.M. ET

By Alan Kovski

The White House today threatened to veto a bill that cobbles together four proposed amendments to the Endangered Species Act that would require disclosure of essential data and litigation burdens and would require consideration of state, county and tribal data.

The 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act (H.R. 4315), taken to the House floor for debate today, also would cap attorneys' fees in such cases at $125 an hour.

The bill as taken to the full House would combine four bills, H.R. 4315, 4316, 4317 and 4318.

The White House said the bill would discourage cooperation by disclosing some information that scientists or landowners want kept private. Like House Democrats, the White House also interpreted one phrase in the bill as deeming data from states, counties and tribes as “best available” without regard to actual quality.

“In addition, H.R. 4315 would add yet another administratively burdensome reporting requirement to an already long list of reporting requirements,” the White House said.

“Finally, the bill would limit the ability of citizens to seek recourse in the courts against unlawful Federal actions, diminishing a critical tool for citizens,” the White House said.

Podesta: Approval to Export Condensate Not Coordinated With White House

Posted July 29, 2014, 12:25 P.M. ET

By Ari Natter

The Department of Commerce's decision to allow the export of lightly processed crude oil was “not coordinated with the White House,” John Podesta, counselor to President Barack Obama, said.

“The types of product that are being produced right now we continue to monitor with respect to their ability to be refined through U.S. refineries,” Podesta told reporters during a conference call. “It is something that is under review through our economic processes at the White House.”

The Commerce Department approved petitions by Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and Enterprise Products Partners LP to export condensate, an ultralight oil that has been stripped of lighter gases to make it less volatile for transport. That move was seen as a signal that the White House may act to loosen a 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports.

Delaying Climate Policy Risks Extra Costs, White House Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 10:33 A.M. ET

By Andrea Vittorio

Delaying international policy action to mitigate climate change could impose extra costs on the global economy and make it harder to hit climate targets in the long run, according to a report released by the White House today.

The report, prepared by the president's Council of Economic Advisers, looked at the economic consequences of delaying international policies that limit greenhouse gas concentrations. It found that delaying climate policies now would create additional costs as countries are left to adopt more abrupt and stringent policies later.

Each decade of delay adds an extra 40 percent to the cost of hitting a specific climate target, the report said.

The report also looked at the cost of delaying policy action that causes countries to miss an internationally agreed upon target of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. The CEA found that stabilizing the temperature rise at 3 degrees Celsius could increase the economic costs of climate change by about 0.9 percent of global output per year. For the U.S., that could mean billions of dollars each year, it said.

The report is meant to show the motivation behind a series of executive actions the Obama administration has taken on climate change, including the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. Public hearings for the proposal start today.

Democrats' Resolution Recognizing Climate Change Falls in Senate

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:49 P.M. ET

By Dean Scott

Senate Democrats tried and failed yesterday to get senators to approve a nonbinding resolution formally recognizing that climate change is occurring and poses ongoing risks after it drew an objection from Republican Sen. James Inhofe (Okla.).

The "sense-of-the-Senate" resolution, offered by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), was offered as a unanimous consent request, meaning a single objection from a senator would kill it. The proposal (S. Res. 524) was backed by more than 20 Democrats, and Klobuchar was joined by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) in urging colleagues on the floor to support it.

But Inhofe, who is skeptical of linking climate change to human activities, said the push by Democrats for the measure comes as other countries such as Australia have rolled back carbon taxes and other climate action. In a floor speech, Inhofe called for protecting "the American people from the senseless global warming policies" advocated by Democrats and objected to the consent request.

Whitehouse told Bloomberg BNA today that Democrats are not finished pursuing such resolutions. "We will keep working on it," he said.

EPA Threatened With Lawsuit Over 2014 Renewable Fuel Volumes

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:44 P.M. ET

By Ari Natter

The head of an ethanol trade group vowed today to sue the Environmental Protection Agency if the agency moves forward with proposed reductions in renewable fuel standard volume obligations.

"If they gut the program, thinking they are helping us, they are going to find themselves in court," Bob Dinneen, president of the Washington-based Renewable Fuels Association, which represents ethanol makers such as Abengoa SA, said in an interview. "If they so screw this up that Exxon Mobil now gets to decide how much renewable fuel we are going use, then I'm going to defend the program."

The proposal, which has yet to be vetted by the White House Office of Management and Budget, is expected to be finalized in August or September, according to industry analysts.

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Cc: Levy, Jeffrey[Levy.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Younes, Lina
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:55:17 PM
Subject: Scheduled social media (Eng and Sp) for July 30, 2014

Time	Content	Channel
8:30AM	How to submit your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
9:00AM	Is your favorite retailer, school, or tech company a top #EPAGreenPower Partner? Find out here: http://1.usa.gov/H7tJR	Twitter
9:30AM	We want to hear everyone's comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan. Here's how to submit yours: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
10:00AM	Is your favorite retailer, school, or tech company one of our top 100 Green Power Partners? Find out here.	Google+, FB, Spanish FB
10:30 AM	We'll have 1600 speakers at our #CleanPowerPlan hearings, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Here's how to comment: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
11:00AM	Moisture control is key to the design, construction & operations of a building. Get our new guidelines.	Twitter, Google+, FB
11:30PM	Did you know we have over 65,000 digital and 1,500 print documents that you can get for free? www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
11:45PM	All of the speaker slots are filled up for our Clean Power Plan hearings. We want to hear from you, though, at: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
12:00 PM	Heat islands are areas in the city that are hotter than nearby rural areas because roads and buildings absorb the sun's rays and reflect heat back at you. Encourage your community to beat the heat by planting trees and installing cool roofs and roads.	Google+, FB, Spanish FB
12:20PM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
12:30PM	Household food waste is the biggest cause of methane in landfills. http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-basics #ActOnClimate	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
12:45PM	Did you know we have over 65,000 digital and 1,500 print documents that you can get for free? http://www.epa.gov/nscep/	Spanish TW, Spanish FB
1:00PM	Did you know #water expands by 9% when it freezes? Check out this and other water #facts. http://go.usa.gov/9qTx	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
1:20PM	Couldn't attend one of our Clean Power Plan hearings? Please share your comments in writing: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB

1:30PM	Need educational, technical or scientific materials? We've got thousands of documents that you can get for free. www.epa.gov/nscep	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
2:00PM	Expectant moms: We've got new advice about mercury in fish. http://go.usa.gov/9q5F	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
2:20PM	Send us your feedback! We're accepting comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
2:30PM	We're looking for small businesses with #green tech / innovative eco-friendly products. http://go.usa.gov/5Y7w#EPAsbir	Twitter, Spanish TW
2:30PM	Own or work for a small business that is developing #green tech or innovative environmentally friendly products? Our 2014 Small Business Innovative Research grants support new technologies that are highly efficient, but low in toxicity to people and the environment. Apply by September 11, 2014.	Google+, FB
3:00PM	Cleaner buses=healthier kids! Another round of school bus replacement rebates is coming in the fall. http://go.usa.gov/5xCm #CleanSchoolBus	Twitter, Google+, FB
3:20PM	Have some thoughts on our proposed Clean Power Plan? We want to hear from you: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
3:30PM	We're committed to protecting tribal & indigenous communities & finding solutions to environmental justice issues.http://go.usa.gov/5wr5	Twitter, Google+, FB
4:30PM	How to submit your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB
5:30PM	We want to hear everyone's comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan. Here's how to submit yours: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
6:30PM	We'll have 1600 speakers at our #CleanPowerPlan hearings, but we'd like to hear from everyone. Here's how to comment: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
7:30PM	All of the speaker slots are filled up for our Clean Power Plan hearings. We want to hear from you, though, at: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB
8:30PM	Want to share your comments on our proposed Clean Power Plan, but can't attend a public hearing? Here's how: http://go.usa.gov/5vAP	Twitter, Google+, FB, Spanish TW, Spanish FB

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Cc: Smith, Dylan[Smith.Dylan@epa.gov]
From: Durley, Kamari
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:36:12 PM
Subject: More Denver Public Hearing Clips

Bloomberg- Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 3:12 PM ET

Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping **rules** proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of **climate change** will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders **Wyoming** and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at **hearings** in Denver and three other cities this week:**Washington**, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from **power plants**, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as **California**,**Iowa**, **Texas**, Wyoming, **Montana** and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Cluband Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said. "Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

At the hearing at the EPA's headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation's largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

"Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way," Fred Palmer, the company's top regulatory official, said. "The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington."

Instead of the EPA's requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means "real and tangible effects for every citizen" by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn't generated by coal.

"By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants," testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. "It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation."

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President **Barack Obama** last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the **Department of Energy**will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or **renewable energy**. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA's proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For **Georgia**, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including **Kentucky**, **West Virginia** and **North Dakota**, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The**Natural Resources Defense Council** said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

"In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods," **David Doniger**, the group's climate director, testified today.

Colorado Public Radio- EPA's clean air rules assailed at Denver hearing

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS JUL 29, 2014

Hundreds of people across the country are telling the Environmental Protection Agency its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings starting Tuesday in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

Denver's hearing got underway with Moffat County, Colorado, Commissioner John Kinkaid saying the rules would devastate the economy in his county, home to a major power plant.

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling public health. He urged the agency to do more.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities. The agency also has received more than 300,000 written comments.

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To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: BNA Highlights
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:35:45 PM
Subject: Jul 29 -- Energy and Climate Report - Afternoon Briefing

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Afternoon Briefing -- Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

Rule Would Increase Prices With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:23 P.M. ET

By Andrew Childers

An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would drive up electricity costs and cause significant job losses without providing a tangible climate benefit, coal-reliant states and industry groups said today.

“The U.S. cannot go it alone and expect that our actions will have a meaningful climate impact in a world economy that is using more coal and more fossil fuels every day,” Paul Cicio, president of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said at a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on the proposed rule.

Utilities also opposed the EPA's proposal because it would require carbon dioxide emissions reductions through demand reduction programs and investments in renewable energy that may be beyond their control.

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pledged to continue to oppose the EPA's proposed rule in Congress and criticized the agency's failure to hold public listening sessions on the rule in coal-producing states.

Shifting electricity generation from coal to natural gas presents reliability concerns because natural gas cannot be stockpiled, Cicio said. Rising electricity prices could cause more manufacturers to move their operations off shore, which could increase emissions, he said. Cicio said the EPA needs to consider this “carbon leakage” when it tallies the benefits of its proposal.

Environmentalists Say Clean Power Plan Lacking; Industry Warns on Jobs

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:50 P.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

Several speakers at the Denver hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed clean power plan today said the proposed rules don't do enough to reduce carbon pollution, while several industry representatives said it will result in job losses.

“The rule should be strengthened to require the percentage of energy produced by renewable energy to be 20 percent by 2020 and 30 percent by 2030,” Karen Hadden, executive director of the Sustainable Development and Economic Development Coalition in Austin, Texas, said while testifying at the hearing at the EPA's Region 8

headquarters in Denver. “We cannot afford not to act.”

The proposal, announced June 2 by the EPA, is “technically and economically flawed,” said Michael Hutcheson, environmental engineer for Ameren Corp., a St. Louis-based utility that provides power to customers in Illinois and Missouri. “It will cause job losses and damage to the economy.”

Southern States Say EPA Carbon Rule Won't Count Past Efforts

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:06 P.M. ET

By Chris Marr

The Environmental Protection Agency's draft rules on power plant carbon emissions penalize electric utilities for their efforts to comply with prior rules, rather than give them credit for past investments, utility regulators and power industry representatives said at a public hearing in Atlanta today.

From new nuclear reactor construction in Georgia to emission controls equipment at coal-fired power plants in Alabama and Mississippi, utility regulators complained that their states won't get credit for projects that have been completed in recent years or that are now under way. In some cases, coal-fired plants that have received expensive upgrades for compliance purposes might be closed or converted to natural gas soon, officials said.

“The rules keep changing,” Brandon Presley, commissioner on the Mississippi Public Service Commission, told EPA staff members. “We've made good investments in Mississippi. We've tried to do what's right, and we ask that you would recognize that.”

The proposed rule, issued in draft form June 2, would require each state to design and implement plans for decreasing power plants' carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA has a goal of reducing power plant carbon emissions 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, but its proposal assigns reduction targets for each state—some higher and some lower than 30 percent.

Dozens of environmental advocates spoke largely in favor of EPA's proposal in Atlanta.

EPA to Continue Requiring Greenhouse Gas Controls in Air Permits

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:18 P.M. ET

By Patrick Ambrosio

Major stationary sources that are subject to prevention of significant deterioration construction permit requirements for conventional pollutants will still be required to implement best available control technology requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA, in a memo dated July 24, said those sources remain subject to existing permitting regulations despite a June ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that removed greenhouse gas permitting requirements for certain sources of pollution.

The court ruled that while the EPA can require greenhouse gas controls for major stationary sources that trigger permitting requirements for conventional pollutants, a facility's greenhouse gas emissions alone don't trigger PSD or title V permitting requirements.

The agency also said that it doesn't intend to continue processing permit applications for sources if greenhouse gases are the only pollutant that would trigger the permitting requirements. For existing permits issued solely based on greenhouse gas emissions, the agency's “general thinking” is that it may be appropriate to eventually remove greenhouse gas control language from those permits and convert the permits to “minor source” permits when feasible, according to the memo.

Power Plant Rule Could Boost Natural Gas Industry, McCabe Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:50 P.M. ET

By Anthony Adragna

Forthcoming carbon dioxide emissions standards for existing power plants could generate 1.2 trillion cubic feet more natural gas by 2020 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, the Environmental Protection Agency's top air official said today.

“When done responsibly and safely and carefully and appropriately and knowledgeably, oil and gas resources have great potential to help this country in terms of spurring economic growth, enhancing our energy security, improving our air quality, our quality of life, our public health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, told the Natural Gas Roundtable.

McCabe's remarks came as the EPA held its first day of hearings on proposed carbon dioxide emissions standards for existing power plants. The EPA released its proposed regulations on carbon pollution from existing power plants June 2 under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

McCabe described the natural gas industry as a “very important stakeholder group for EPA in this rule.”

Delaying Climate Policy Risks Extra Costs, White House Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 10:47 A.M. ET

By Andrea Vittorio

Delaying international policy action to mitigate climate change could impose extra costs on the global economy and make it harder to hit climate targets in the long run, according to a report released by the White House today.

The report, prepared by the president's Council of Economic Advisers, looked at the economic consequences of delaying international policies that limit greenhouse gas concentrations. It found that delaying climate policies now would create additional costs as countries are left to adopt more abrupt and stringent policies later.

Each decade of delay adds an extra 40 percent to the cost of hitting a specific climate target, the report said.

The report also looked at the cost of delaying policy action that causes countries to miss an internationally agreed upon target of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. The CEA found that stabilizing the temperature rise at 3 degrees Celsius could increase the economic costs of climate change by about 0.9 percent of global output per year. For the U.S., that could mean billions of dollars each year, it said.

The report is meant to show the motivation behind a series of executive actions the Obama administration has taken on climate change, including the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. Public hearings for the proposal start today.

Climate Impacts May Restrict National Guard, Reserves, Adviser Says

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:18 P.M. ET

By Dean Scott

A former Defense Department official said today that flooding and other severe weather linked to climate change will put more domestic strains on the National Guard and Reserves, even as an increasingly lean U.S. military expects to rely on them to shoulder more of the burden of future armed conflicts.

Sherri Goodman, a deputy undersecretary of defense from 1993 to 2001, told the Senate Budget Committee that multiple storms affecting the U.S. at the same time could affect troop readiness, as those personnel “are less available to respond to worldwide crises.”

“The frequency, severity and probability that these events could happen simultaneously will also likely increase demand for active duty forces” to support civil authorities, as was done during Hurricane Katrina, according to Goodman, now executive director of the CNA Military Advisory Board.

Nine of the 10 costliest storms in U.S. history have occurred over the last decade, Goodman said.

According to the Defense Department, by fiscal year 2017, Army troop levels are projected to decline by 64,000 and the Marine Corps by 15,000 from fiscal 2012 levels. That would reverse most of the troop buildup needed to fight

wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, according to the department's report, "Defense Budget Priorities and Choices: Fiscal Year 2014."

California, Mexico Sign Pacts on Clean Energy, Climate Policies

Posted July 29, 2014, 3:20 P.M. ET

By Carolyn Whetzel

California will work with Mexican officials to advance cross-border investments in clean energy under a bilateral pact announced today.

California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and Mexico's Secretary of Energy Pedro Joaquin Coldwell signed the Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together on clean energy research and developing and deploying renewable energy and biofuel projects.

The agreement also includes a commitment to explore integrating Baja California Norte into California's energy market and support expanded markets for clean and energy-efficient technologies, including manufacturing and transportation.

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California's governor is visiting Mexico with a delegation of state officials, business leaders and representatives from nongovernmental organizations to foster cross-border trade and investments.

FERC Commissioners Divided Over Power Plant Rule

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:18 P.M. ET

By Lynn Garner

A House hearing on the first-ever proposal to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants exposed sharp differences among members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the impacts to electric grid reliability, dependence on natural gas-fired generation and on state and regional planning processes.

FERC's three Democrats—Acting Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur, John Norris and Norman Bay, who has not yet been formally sworn in, told the Subcommittee on Energy and Power today that the power plant rule provides enough flexibility and time to adjust electricity market operations in order to comply with the emission targets.

Republican commissioners Philip Moeller and Tony Clark expressed skepticism with the Environmental Protection Agency's assumption that enough pipelines will be built to allow natural gas-fired generation to replace thousands of megawatts of retiring coal generation.

LaFleur and the other commissioners did agree that the EPA should take into consideration a regional approach to reflect the multistate nature of the bulk power grid.

House Republicans questioned whether FERC had sufficient input in the EPA's proposed rule and its impact on electricity markets.

LaFleur said she had one meeting with EPA officials in February. That was followed by five EPA and FERC staff meetings, she said. The other commissioners said they had no consultations with the EPA.

Podesta: Approval to Export Condensate Not Coordinated With White House

Posted July 29, 2014, 2:18 P.M. ET

By Ari Natter

The Department of Commerce's decision to allow the export of lightly processed crude oil was "not coordinated with the White House," John Podesta, counselor to President Barack Obama, said.

“The types of product that are being produced right now we continue to monitor with respect to their ability to be refined through U.S. refineries,” Podesta told reporters during a conference call. “It is something that is under review through our economic processes at the White House.”

The Commerce Department approved petitions by Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and Enterprise Products Partners LP to export condensate, an ultralight oil that has been stripped of lighter gases to make it less volatile for transport. That move was seen as a signal that the White House may act to loosen a 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports.

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From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:31:57 PM
Subject: Bloomberg: Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 1:12 PM MT

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Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping rules proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of climate change will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the

agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said. "Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

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At the hearing at the EPA's headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation's largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

"Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way," Fred Palmer, the company's top regulatory official, said. "The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington."

Instead of the EPA's requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means "real and tangible effects for every citizen" by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn't generated by coal.

"By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants," testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. "It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation."

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the Department of Energy will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or renewable energy. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA's proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For Georgia, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including Kentucky, West Virginia and North Dakota, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our

infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The Natural Resources Defense Council said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

"In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods," David Doniger, the group's climate director, testified today.

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Subject: Denver Public Hearing Clips

Power Mag- Preview of Denver's Public Hearing on the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

07/28/2014 | Gail Reitenbach

Of the four public hearings scheduled this week on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Power Plan—aka, carbon pollution standards proposed under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act—all but one are scheduled for states (and the District of Columbia) bordering the East Coast. A preview of the Denver hearing suggests that substantive comments from the power sector are being submitted directly to the agency.

Though originally scheduled just for Tuesday, July 29, the number of individuals requesting time to speak in Denver at the EPA's Region 8 offices forced a second day of hearings plus the scheduling of concurrent hearings for two rosters of speakers in two different rooms.

As I drove up to the Denver area on the weekend prior to the hearings, I happened to hear a radio announcement sponsored by Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraging listeners to attend and show their support for the proposed standards. According to their press release, "The radio ad will run nearly 260 times over the course of seven days in the Denver media market."

Apparently, the word got out. Of the 222 Tuesday speakers listed on the EPA District 8 website by mid-afternoon July 28, 22 were identified as affiliated with Sierra Club; 21 of 228 Wednesday speakers were affiliated with Sierra Club.

The Front Range of Colorado experienced a devastating rain and flooding event last fall—preceded by a series of destructive wildfires—that are still fresh in the minds of everyone in this state, so many in Colorado (which is also in the midst of an oil and gas fracking boom) are watching climate change politics and policy closely.

Though many speakers did not list an affiliation, the majority of those who did were from various sorts of environmental groups. Healthcare and religious groups were also represented.

For Tuesday's roster, only about five speakers were identifiably affiliated with a power generator, utility association, or public utility commission. On Wednesday's list the number was 10. Interestingly, between early morning and mid-afternoon, the list was updated and no longer included a speaker from Xcel Energy, and speaking times had been removed.

Why the paucity of generating companies in attendance, given that the Denver hearing was the only one scheduled in the West? Odds are that individual generators are submitting more careful comments in writing directly to the EPA (due by Oct. 16) and working with state agencies to figure out a way forward.

Even groups that one might consider the antithesis of environmental groups represented less than a handful of speakers listed for Tuesday; these included the Wyoming Mining Association and the Powder River Basin Resource Council. On Wednesday, similar groups and the United Mine Workers of America accounted for about a dozen speakers.

As for those other hearings—in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.—they, too, added a second day. The other unexpected development involved power itself. As the EPA website explains: "As the result of a large scale power outage at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, EPA has decided to move the July 29 and 30, 2014, Atlanta Clean Power Plan public hearings to the nearby Omni Hotel."

Epoch Times- EPA Holding Public Hearings on Carbon Emission Plan

By Associated Press | July 29, 2014

Last Updated: July 29, 2014 11:44 am

DENVER—Hundreds of people will tell the Environmental Protection Agency what they think of proposed rules to cut pollution from power plants during public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday in Denver.

With just five minutes each to make their case to the EPA, opponents and supporters also are staging rallies around the city.

Besides Denver, the EPA is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

The Denver hearings are the only ones in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality.

Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies and religious and civil rights organizations are sending representatives to the Denver hearings.

Mark Fix, a Montana rancher signed up to speak Tuesday, called the rules a "good step in the right direction." He blames climate change for a tornado, flooding and other extreme weather he has witnessed on his ranch.

"There's things out there we need to develop — the hydro, the wind, the solar, a lot of the renewables," Fix said Monday. Fix ranches southwest of Miles City, Montana, and is a member of the Northern Plains Resource Council.

Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, plans to argue against the rules.

"I think they need to go back to the drawing board," Downing said Monday. "It takes time to develop those (anti-pollution) technologies and have conversions on power plants," and U.S. competitiveness could suffer during the transition, he said.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The agency expects 400 people to speak in Denver and a total of 1,600 in all four cities. Written comments will be accepted until Oct. 16.

Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman said hearing testimony can range from serious questions to political theater.

"People ask some ridiculous ones, which means that they don't care about the answer," said Whitman, a former New Jersey governor who headed the EPA from January 2001 to June 2003.

But the hearings are a legitimate part of the agency's decision-making process, she said.

The Colorado Independent- Denver EPA meeting Tues and Wed already full with speakers

Thousands expected to comment on historic carbon regs

Skyler Leonard

July 28, 2014 Environment/Energy

With its first-ever plan to reduce carbon emissions through power plants, the Environmental Protection Agency's nationwide public hearings this week are expected to be jam-packed, especially in Denver where environmentalists and energy groups alike have signed on to comment at the event.

In Denver, the EPA anticipates 1,600 people will comment Tuesday and Wednesday during the meeting at the Region 8 building at 1595 Wynkoop St. in LoDo. Three other cities — Washington D.C., Atlanta and Pittsburgh — will also host meetings. According to the EPA, Denver, Atlanta and Washington are already full and will allow no further people to comment.

The Clean Power Plan, announced in June, would limit carbon emissions substantially by 2030. To achieve this goal, the EPA is planning to work closely with states, which all have different energy policies.

According to the plan released by the EPA, Colorado will be expected to lower CO2 output by about 35 percent to 1,108 pounds of carbon in 2030, compared to levels in 2005.

Many in Colorado believe the state is already on track to reach this mark because of past clean air initiatives passed by the state and because of local support. According to Kim Stephens, from Environment Colorado, the EPA plan is building off of nearly 10 years of work in Colorado towards clean energy.

"We really applaud the EPA for responding by reining in unlimited carbon pollution," Stephens said.

Others in more rural communities however, see the proposal as a detriment that could hinder small economies that are dependent on power plants and carbon emitting energy.

Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, who worked at a coal-fired power plant in Craig for over 30 years, said that the proposal would have lasting effects on the local economy in part because power plants and coal mines pay the most tax money to Moffat County and in other surrounding areas such as Routt County.

"(There) would be dire consequences economically for northwest Colorado if the regulations go through for existing power plants," said Kinkaid who will be speaking at the Denver event at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday.

Kinkaid expects over 100 people from Moffat County to attend the event on Tuesday, and also participate in a pro-coal rally later in the day. in Lincoln park. The rally will be co-hosted by Americans For Prosperity.

Besides energy supporters, many environmental groups will be represented at the event. According to the Sierra Club, speakers from non-profits, businesses and environmental groups from Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana and Arizona will attend.

Earlier in the summer many pushed to have the EPA host the meetings somewhere the proposal would have a substantial impact. Kinkaid led the front to have the meetings hosted in Moffat County by getting support from U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton and Senators Udall and Bennet to write letters to the EPA asking them for a change of venue.

However, the EPA decided to hold two days of meetings instead, Kinkaid said.

ABC 7 Denver- EPA pollution hearings in Denver: Rallies and protests planned Tuesday and Wednesday

Hundreds sign up to discuss EPA clean air rules

4:39 AM, Jul 29, 2014

4:39 AM, Jul 29, 2014

DENVER - Hundreds of people have signed up to tell the Environmental Protection Agency what they think of proposed rules to cut pollution from power plants during public hearings in Denver.

Opponents and supporters will also stage rallies and news conferences around the city during the hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The EPA is holding hearings this week in Denver, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030.

The rules are intended to reduce greenhouse gases and restrain global warming.

Representatives from coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies and religious and civil rights organizations are among the 400 people who plan to speak in Denver.

Steamboat Today- EPA hearings prompt Craig and Steamboat constituents to rally for coal in Denver Tuesday

By Craig Daily Press Staff Report

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Five buses departed Craig early Tuesday morning, shuttling dozens of people to Denver who will rally on behalf of the coal industry near the state Capitol.

The bus also stopped to pick up passengers in Steamboat.

Coal supporters in Northwest Colorado are hoping to make noise in Denver where the Environmental Protection Agency will hold its carbon emissions hearings that many fear will hurt the economic viability of areas that house coal-fired power plants.

Two coal-fired power plants exist in Northwest Colorado — Hayden Station, owned by Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy, and Craig Station, owned by Westminster-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

The hearings will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Denver EPA offices, which are a few miles from where the rally will take place near the state Capitol.

"I think it's exciting that this many people turned out," said Frank Moe, who owns the Best Western Plus Deer Park Inn & Suites in Craig. "It shows how much people love our area and how much the regulations will impact us."

The EPA is hosting two-day public hearings in four cities across the nation, including Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Denver.

It's all part of the EPA's process in dissecting how to implement the proposed Clean Power Plan that was released to the public June 2.

Specifically, the Clean Power Plan will set forth rules about how to cut carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. According to the EPA, the plan proposes that power plants cut carbon emissions 30 percent nationwide by 2030.

The public comment period ends Oct. 16, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and

Environment is required to have its carbon emissions recommendations to the EPA by June 2016.

Workers from Twentymile Coal Co. — a coal mine owned by St. Louis-based Peabody Energy — in Hayden filled the buses, said Brandi Meek, Moffat County chairwoman of the Republican Committee.

Additionally, 3 Wire restaurant at Yampa Valley Regional Airport made over 250 burritos for those making the bus trek to Denver.

"(Coal) is our livelihood," said Amy Doddridge, who delivered the burritos to the buses. "And we're feeding everyone."

Although many in Northwest Colorado — including Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid — have said that the EPA is trying to kill the coal industry, the EPA has a different take on the issue.

"Coal will remain a critical part of America's energy mix for the foreseeable future. EPA's carbon pollution proposal provides each state with enormous flexibility in determining how to meet its pollution reduction goals, and does not mandate the retirement of any coal plants," the EPA said in a statement to the Craig Daily Press.

Prairie Public News- Power companies still have questions and concerns about new EPA carbon rules

By DAVE THOMPSON

The EPA is holding hearings in four cities across the country on the proposed new rules to cut carbon emissions.

The rules call for a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

One of the hearings will be held in Denver.

Abbie Krebsbach is the environmental director for MDU, and she plans to testify at the Denver hearing. She says one issue MDU will focus on is what she called an "error" by EPA in how it looked at carbon reduction goals in South Dakota. Krebsbach says EPA assumed that much of

the electric generation from the Big Stone power plant would be transferred to a natural gas power plant. She says MDU doesn't have an ownership stake in that plant.

"It's on a different regional transmission system," said Krebsbach. "EPA assumes Big Stone would reduce its generation by about two-thirds, and re-dispatch to this other unit that we don't own."

Krebsbach says EPA also assumes there haven't been any efficiency improvements at the coal fired plant.

"Perhaps EPA doesn't realize all the work that we have done already," said Krebsbach. "And that should be recognized and reflected in the targets, so they're more achievable."

MDU says it is hoping EPA would consider allowing states to work together to reach regional solutions to carbon emission reduction.

"Our electric system has no state boundaries," said Krebsbach. "And we think regional cooperation will help minimize costs for our customers."

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is also pushing for states working together. Basin's Chris VandeVenter says Basin and other utilities have customers in multiple states – and this creates issues with generation being in one state – and customers in other states. He says a great example of that is the Laramie River station in Wyoming.

"Three of the owners of that plant have no loads on Wyoming," said VandeVenter. "But all the carbon intensity of that plant is assigned to Wyoming."

VandeVenter will be testifying at the EPA hearing in Washington, DC -- to be held at roughly the same time as the Denver hearing.

"Understanding that each utility in each state has its own unique needs, and saying, 'EPA -- you're saying you want to give states the flexibility to do this. Let the states come up with solutions that are beneficial to the region, the utilities and the states themselves,'" said VandeVenter.

Basin's Steve Tomac will be in Denver. And he says one of the issues he will bring up is how the new rules treat so called "renewable energy credits."

"Do the wind credits follow the load, or do they stay in the state where the wind is generated, like the fossil fuels do?" said Tomac.

Basin will be asking the EPA for more time to comment on the proposed carbon reduction rules.

"EPA has already indicated they will be very, very reluctant to offer any additional extension on that," said Tomac. "But given the gravity of the situation, and the fact that Congress has failed to act on any solid energy policies, this is, in fact, the energy policy for the next 15 years. And I

think that there are a number of issues out there that probably deserve more consideration."

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To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:06:32 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by the National Biodiesel Board: Climate costs will jump without action, White House says — Inside the EPA climate rule hearings

By Alex Guillén | 7/29/14 6:05 AM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon and Andrew Restuccia

WHITE HOUSE — CLIMATE COSTS WILL JUMP WITHOUT ACTION: Failure to act on climate change could be a multi-billion-dollar mistake, the White House says in a report today marking its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country. The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Andrew Restuccia has the story: http://politico.pro/1uCONHp

— In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week. On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development. White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

SETTLE IN — INSIDE THE EPA CLIMATE RULE HEARINGS: An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings. Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third. Andrew Restuccia has more: http://politico.pro/1rUcg3o

Those speaking in D.C. today include: Sen. Ed Markey, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), National Mining Association President and CEO Hal Quinn, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, Electric Reliability Coordinating Council counsel and former EPA air chief Jeff Holmstead, Algae Biomass Organization Executive Director Matt Carr, American Wind Energy Association Senior Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs Tom Vinson, Hip Hop Caucus President and CEO Lennox Yearwood Jr., and Environment America Washington Director Anna Aurilio. Also: Richard Kennedy, who identifies himself as a retired CIA employee.

What's two minutes between friends? Yesterday's edition mistakenly said speakers at EPA's hearings get three minutes to talk; they actually get five.

You scream, ME screams, we all scream: Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and Ben & Jerry's are serving free ice cream out of trucks outside EPA headquarters today from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case you were wondering, B&J retired the flavor Fossil Fuel ("Sweet Cream Ice Cream with

Chocolate Cookie Pieces, Fudge Dinosaurs & a Fudge Swirl") back in 2010.

Good timing: Acting EPA air chief Janet McCabe is the is the star attraction at the American Gas Association's monthly Natural Gas Roundtable today. Details: http://bit.ly/1kPdQAQ

— Obama climate adviser Dan Utech says Colorado is "extremely well-positioned" to meet EPA's carbon cuts. Denver Post: http://dpo.st/1ArIHKu

— The Morning Consult talks to 15 state energy officials about EPA's climate rule: http://bit.ly/1pvGmWh

FERC WEIGHS IN ON EPA CLIMATE RULES: The Energy and Commerce Committee's energy and power panel hears from FERC commissioners this morning about EPA's proposed climate rules and grid reliability issues. Acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur will tell lawmakers that her agency is keeping an eye on EPA's climate rule when it comes to the electric grid's reliability, according to her prepared testimony. Since EPA's draft Clean Power Plan moved into the OMB interagency review process, FERC has been all over it, she says. FERC staff, for example, have emphasized that natural gas pipeline capacity should be looked at from a regional perspective rather than solely a national one because of existing constraints on the system — especially because EPA's proposal relies on greater natural gas-fired output. LaFleur also says that FERC staff have pressed the EPA to "not only allow but also encourage regional compliance." Moreover, her staff have given estimated construction timelines for electric transmission projects needed to bring remote renewable power to consumers.

— LaFleur also notes that FERC's work with EPA on the latter's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule provides a good example of how FERC can lend its reliability expertise as the EPA implements new environmental regulations like the Clean Power Plan. The "core tenets" of the two rules are different, but she points to the public forums with state regulators as well as regular conference calls with EPA, DOE and grid operators as efforts that presage the work that will likely happen with development of EPA climate rule.

But her colleagues made it clear that while some agency staff may be helping the EPA with its proposal, agency leaders without the gavel know very little about the activities. In response to a question about whether EPA had consulted them about the draft climate rule, LaFleur's colleague all wrote some variant of Commissioner Tony Clark's succinct response: "EPA did not consult with me." FERC Meanwhile, Commissioner John Norris' testimony doesn't mince words and takes a shot at Congress' legislative foot-dragging on energy and climate change. "I believe America can lead the world in the effort to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change. I have been hopeful for a number of years that Congress would step up to the challenge and pass legislation to begin that effort," he writes. "Unfortunately, to date, that has not occurred." Congress' failure to pass energy legislation and address climate change has "discouraged needed investment in technologies that can help us address climate change."

— For his part, FERC's chairman-in-waiting, Norman Bay, noted that his work as enforcement director meant that he had "not been involved in the EPA rulemaking." Commissioner responses to preliminary questions: http://1.usa.gov/1rLKwzu. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in Rayburn

2123.

HAPPY TUESDAY and welcome to Morning Energy. Send your energy news to aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexcguillen, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

U.S., EU TO TOUGHEN RUSSIA SANCTIONS: Via the New York Times: "The United States and Europe put aside their differences and agreed Monday to sharply escalate economic sanctions against Russia amid worries that Moscow is stepping up its intervention in Ukraine and may be setting the stage for an outright invasion. … [T]he package to be finalized Tuesday would go much further, matching and in some cases exceeding the actions Mr. Obama took on his own this month in blocking access to medium- and long-term American capital markets for some of Russia's largest and most global banking and energy companies. … They are also considering limits on technology sales to Russia's oil industry." NYT: http://nyti.ms/UyLXTj

** America's first commercially produced advanced biofuel, biodiesel, is here, now — growing and diversifying our transportation energy portfolio. In fact, biodiesel producers have delivered more than a billion gallons of advanced biofuel three years running. Learn more today at www.AmericasAdvancedBiofuel.com. **

THE DAY OF TOO MANY HEARINGS: In case today's EPA-palooza wasn't enough, there are no fewer than nine energy-related hearings on Capitol Hill today. Here's what you need to know about the most important ones, besides the FERC hearing covered above; Pros can get details on the rest in the calendar section below.

Climate change and the budget: The Budget Committee holds a hearing on the economic and budgetary consequences of climate change. Climate change poses both and environmental and economic threat, particularly if it goes unchecked, Chairwoman Patty Murray will say, according to remarks previewed for ME. "These costs are too important to ignore, and it's time for the Budget Committee to begin to assess the damage climate change will have on our budget and economy," she will say. "Failing to act now will only make it more difficult to solve this problem later, and will force us to divert resources away from other priorities. So, let me be clear on this point. Anyone who, like me, wants to tackle our long-term fiscal challenges fairly and responsibly, needs also to worry about the impacts of climate change." http://1.usa.gov/1rIt4vy. 10 a.m., Dirksen 608

Climate change threats: The Environment and Public Works Committee's clean air panel holds a hearing on the threats posed by climate change. The Hill hearing, chaired by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, is aimed at complementing the EPA hearings by offering up details on the dangers posed by climate change — and thus by fossil fuels. http://1.usa.gov/1nBG6HU. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 406

Accelerating BLM permitting: The Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing on the energy production permitting process on federal lands at the Bureau of Land Management. The hearing is another chance for Chairwoman Mary Landrieu and other panel members up for reelection to hammer the administration about speeding up energy permitting

ahead of the August recess. BLM Director Neil Kornze will be on hand, along with energy industry representatives. http://1.usa.gov/1rKvp7V. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 366

ADMINISTRATION PUTS HOLD ON CONDENSATE OIL EXPORT REQUESTS, FOR NOW — REPORT: Reuters reports: "The U.S. Commerce Department has put on hold at least two companies' requests for permission to sell lightly processed crude abroad, effectively stalling an industry push to export an expanding glut of oil amid the U.S. shale revolution, sources said. … This may also give the agency more time to put together some form of comprehensive public guidance about what kind of oil can or cannot be exported, answering industry's growing cry for clarity. It is unclear when such a document may be finalized, but several sources said they think it could occur within weeks." Reuters: http://reut.rs/1pxSp5g

NWF CUTS SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS: The National Wildlife Federation cut several positions on Monday, including some senior staff positions, the environmental group said. "The changes today will help National Wildlife Federation focus more resources on the ground protecting wildlife, conserving habitat, and connecting Americans — especially children — with nature, as we work to rebuild the nation's conservation movement," new NWF President and CEO Collin O'Mara said in a statement. "We remain fully committed to working with members of both parties to make measurable progress, giving voice to our 49 state affiliates and 4 million members, supporters and all who care about the future of wildlife." The group would not disclose which staffers or positions had been cut or why cuts were being made.

EPA SHOULD DO MORE TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM OIL, GAS WELLS — GAO: EPA needs to do more to ensure underground drinking water sources are protected from oil and gas injections wells, the Government Accountability Office says in a new report. The 103-page report notes EPA and state regulators face budgetary limitations, but faults the agency's oversight of the nation's 172,000 wells used to enhance production or for disposal. The burgeoning oil and gas industry, the report adds, present new problems for EPA, including increased risk of seismic activity and increasing pressure on geologic formations. "EPA is not consistently conducting two key oversight and enforcement activities for class II programs," the report says. EPA "does not consistently conduct annual on-site state program evaluations" because of a lack of resources, and EPA "may not be able to enforce all state program requirements," the report concludes. GAO recommends EPA direct a working group to review emerging risks from class II wells; revise program guidance as needed to create effective oversight; and complete a national database, among other things. Read: http://1.usa.gov/1qHWV7Y

POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL HAS HIGH SOCIAL COST — CAP: Coal extracted from the Powder River Basin and burned releases carbon pollution that causes a social cost of $62 per short ton, more than four times what the coal sells for domestically, according to a paper out today from the Center for American Progress. Based on 2012 production levels, that means there was a social cost of $19 billion from PRB coal, CAP writes. The coal produced from the PRB is also undervalued by the government's leasing process, CAP says, meaning the treasury is missing out on larger royalty payments — a complaint lodged by others, including the GAO and Interior's inspector general. CAP's report: http://bit.ly/1zoAyoI

GASOLINE PRICES CONTINUE TO SLIDE: National gasoline prices have continued to slide to $3.52 per gallon, the lowest average since March 17, according to AAA. Despite international tensions, gasoline prices have dropped every day in July, and are 16 cents lowers than a month ago and 11 cents lower than this date last year, the group said.

MOVER, SHAKER: The NRC has picked Maureen Wylie as its new chief financial officer Wylie previously spent 10 years at NOAA, including eight years at that agency's CFO, and before that spent almost two decades as a civilian Army employee. She replaces James Dyer, who retired from the NRC in May.

FLOOR WATCH — HOUSE TAKES UP ESA BILL: The House is slated to take up later today H.R. 4315, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act. The bill, which attracted one Democratic vote in committee, requires the Interior and Commerce Departments to post online information used to determining ESA listings, and to report to Congress on the funds the administration spends litigating ESA lawsuits.

QUICK HITS

— Iraq has convinced a U.S. judge to order the seizure of $100 million worth of oil in a tanker anchored off Galveston because the oil was allegedly pumped from illegal Kurdish wells. Bloomberg: http://bloom.bg/1pz5prB

— EPA says the biggest Western coal-fired power plant, the Navajo Generating Station, must produce a third less electricity by 2020 and could close by 2044. AP: http://abcn.ws/X6p6Ag

— Emails between PG&E and California regulators show close ties, newly released documents show. AP: http://bit.ly/1k51JkJ

— Iowa Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst says she doesn't have a problem attending a fundraiser co-hosted by oil-related PACs. WHOtv: http://bit.ly/1pnkuPC

— Environmental groups, including Greenpeace, 350.org and WildEarth Guardians, write to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to cancel a coal lease sale scheduled for Wednesday. Letter: http://politico.pro/1pyHkRA

— General Mills is instituting new methods to combat climate change by reducing emissions at suppliers and contractors, among other things. Los Angeles: http://lat.ms/1oDcvyR

— Nicolas Cage was spotted in D.C. while filming a movie about a congressman post-BP spill. DCist: http://bit.ly/UH91ip

— The Charleston Gazette's Ken Ward Jr. has some criticism of Natalie Tennant's pro-coal ad: http://bit.ly/WKm053

HAPPENING TODAY

8 a.m. — DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office holds its seventh annual conference. Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson and Federal Environmental Executive Kate Brandt speak. http://1.usa.gov/1t21D1g. Washington Convention Center

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's energy and mineral resources panel holds a hearing on two geothermal bills and a renewable energy bill. http://1.usa.gov/1usZmgf. Longworth 1334

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's public lands panel holds a hearing on several bills. http://1.usa.gov/1pfEkcx. Longworth 1324

10 a.m. — The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's economic growth panel holds a hearing on allegations of corruption at the Export-Import Bank. http://1.usa.gov/UsprLK. Rayburn 2154

10 a.m. — The House Science Committee's research panel holds a hearing on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. http://1.usa.gov/1rUa8aL. Rayburn 2318

10 a.m. — Moms and their children gather for "Play-In(s) for Climate Action." Federal Triangle

10:30 a.m. — The Senate Commerce Committee's ocean panel holds a hearing on the RESTORE Act and issues with Gulf restoration post-BP spill. http://1.usa.gov/1ntVMgZ. Russell 253

1:30 p.m. — United for a Healthy Anacostia River and the District Department of the Environment hold a boat tour of the Anacostia River Sediment Project. 1900 M Street SE

2 p.m. — The Woodrow Wilson Center holds an event on national security and climate change. White House adviser Alice Hill participates. http://bit.ly/1opfOIr. Ronald Reagan Building

6:30 p.m. — The American Council for Capital Formation holds a policy event with Sen. John Hoeven and Reps. G.K. Butterfield, Cynthia Lummis, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Reid Ribble. Florida House on Capitol Hill, 1 Second St. NE

THAT'S ALL FOR ME. Have a great day.

POLITICO presents Morning Money Breakfast Briefing: Join POLITICO's Chief Economic Correspondent Ben White as he takes his daily newsletter Morning Money live interviewing Tim Massad, the chairman of U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on the intersection of Washington and Wall Street. Find out more and RSVP at politi.co/1zdixcI, or join the conversation on Twitter using #MorningMoney.

** You wouldn't invest your life savings in just one stock. So why would America risk everything on a single transportation fuel? No matter how much oil we produce or where we produce it, having only one source to power our cars, trucks, trains and barges makes us vulnerable to a volatile global market.

America's first commercially produced advanced biofuel, biodiesel, is here, now — growing and diversifying our transportation energy portfolio. In fact, biodiesel producers have delivered more than a billion gallons of advanced biofuel three years running. Learn more today at www.AmericasAdvancedBiofuel.com. **

Stories from POLITICO Pro

White House: Climate costs will jump without action

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule

White House: Climate costs will jump without action back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/29/14 6:00 AM EDT

Failure to act on climate change could be a multibillion-dollar mistake, the White House said in a report Tuesday that marked its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country.

The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

The report comes on the same day that the EPA begins a series of public hearings on its greenhouse gas regulation for existing power plants, the centerpiece of Obama's climate change agenda. The proposed rule has come under assault from Republicans, some moderate Democrats and industry groups who worry that it will damage the economy and kill thousands of jobs.

But the White House is working diligently to undercut those criticisms, arguing that its climate change policies will not only improve the environment but also give the U.S. a long-term economic advantage.

The new report warns that delaying action on climate change comes with a heavy price tag. A delay that causes an emissions rise of 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, rather than 2 degrees "could increase economic damages by approximately 0.9 percent of global output."

That's about equal to $150 billion in damage to the United States economy, the report says.

"Our report is very much a motivation for the types of actions the United States has taken in recent years as well as engaging with our global partners — because acting today will save us money, save us time and help advance a wide range of objectives," Jason Furman, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters.

The report analyzed existing research on the costs of inaction on climate change. Furman said

the Council of Economic Advisers came up with the 40 percent figure by reviewing 16 studies. The White House said the report's estimates are conservative.

"I should say that the technique we used, if anything, would lead us to understate the cost of delay," Furman said.

The White House also made the case that implementing policies like EPA's climate regulation is like taking out an environmental insurance policy.

"[C]limate policy can be thought of as 'climate insurance' taken out against the most severe and irreversible potential consequences of climate change," the report says.

In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week.

On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development.

Moniz will announce "a series of executive actions, partnerships and stakeholder commitments to continue to make progress in modernizing the nation's natural gas transmission and distribution systems, which will have the benefit of reducing methane emissions," according to Dan Utech, Obama's climate and energy adviser.

Tuesday marks the last of five roundtable meetings with industry, environmental, labor and other groups aimed at improving natural gas infrastructure and reducing downstream methane emissions. The announcement follows up on a wide-ranging methane strategy the White House unveiled earlier this year.

White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

Podesta added that companies like IBM and Microsoft would be making announcements "about how they can build the tools necessary for our agricultural community to respond to the changes in weather patterns that the country is going to experience." The announcement is part of a broader White House climate change data initiative.back

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/28/14 5:51 PM EDT

Get comfortable.

An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings.

Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third.

The grueling 11-hour sessions, which will be held over two days in Washington, Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh, aren't likely to bridge the massive gap between the Republicans and industry groups that hate the rule and the liberals and environmentalists who love it.

Instead, expect both sides to dig in their heels, polishing off long-standing talking points about how the regulation is likely to either destroy the economy or save the planet.

It's difficult to draw any broad conclusions from the hearings about how the average person feels about the regulation because many of those who will testify are closely associated with groups that have taken stands for or against the proposed carbon restrictions. Environmental and industry groups have both hired buses to send members to the hearings in droves. Polls show that the majority of the public supports the rule.

The hearings are shaping up to be something of a spectacle, with many groups planning splashy events aimed at standing out in the crowd.

The Koch-backed group Americans for Prosperity, for example, is holding rallies in Atlanta and Denver on Tuesday. AFP President Tim Phillips, who will testify at the hearing, will speak at the rally in Atlanta, along with Kentucky Coal Association President Bill Bissett.

Unsurprisingly, the coal industry will have a major presence at the hearings. Officials with the industry group American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity are scheduled to testify at all four hearings, and the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and the Colorado Mining Association are each busing miners to the rallies in their states. The United Mine Workers of America is holding a rally in opposition to the rule on Thursday in Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is slated to speak at Wednesday's hearing in Washington, D.C. He'll then hold a press conference with members of the Congressional Coal Caucus and Jimmy Rose, a former coal miner who rose to prominence in conservative circles after singing the song "Coal Keeps the Lights On" on the reality show "America's Got Talent."

McConnell is facing a tight reelection bid in Kentucky, the nation's third-largest coal producer, and he has emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the rule. He has authored a bill to kill the regulation and he regularly warns in Senate floor speeches that it would destroy the coal industry.

Other lawmakers scheduled to testify at the hearings: Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, the Republican Senate candidate from West Virginia. After speaking at Tuesday's hearing in Washington, Markey will hold a press conference with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, a Johns Hopkins University medical professor and representatives from the Latino Victory Project, Green Latinos and the Hip Hop Caucus.

But EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday she won't be attending any of the hearings. "That would be pretty unprecedented," McCarthy told reporters. "And it's not really about me. It's about listening to people coming in."

And the rhetoric is already heating up.

Republican Rep. Mike Kelly compared EPA's tactics to "terrorism" Monday at a Heritage Foundation forum on the EPA.

Kelly paraphrased the infamous words of former EPA Regional Administrator Al Armendariz, who resigned two years ago after a video showed him saying that his enforcement philosophy was "kind of like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw and they would crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years."

"You talk about terrorism," Kelly said. "You can do it in a lot of different ways."

Greens are also planning events surrounding the hearings.

The Moms Clean Air Force is organizing "play-ins" with moms and their children outside the four hearings this week. The events are aimed at underscoring the public health benefits of the rule, particularly for children.

Environmental groups sought to project a united front in support of the rule ahead of the hearings.

"It's the biggest step we've ever taken against climate change, which today is already harming our health and environment," Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke said on a call with reporters Monday, referring to EPA's climate rule.

"We can't wait any longer to protect ourselves and future generations," Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt added.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said he expects "busloads" of the group's members to attend the hearings. And Beinecke said she expects doctors, farmers and mayors to attend, as well as NRDC members.

While several environmental groups have said they hope to push for improvements to the rule, expect greens to focus on their broad support for the regulation.

"Our focus at these hearings is going to be that this is an absolutely essential step forward," Beinecke said.

*Amy R. Sisk and Erica Martinson contributed to this report.*back

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CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN
DAILY HIGHLIGHTS: CLEAN POWER PLAN HEARINGS

JULY 29, 2014

This week the Climate Action Campaign and its allies are supporting the Clean Power Plan rule as the EPA holds four two-day hearings about the Clean Power Plan in Atlanta, GA; Denver, CO; Pittsburgh, PA; and Washington, D.C. The Campaign and its partner organizations are holding press conferences or telepressers in advance of each hearing, preparing speakers, coordinating social media actions, busing in thousands of supporters, executing an aggressive earned media push, and submitting public comments to the EPA.

NATIONAL EARNED MEDIA

Earned Media by the Numbers, July 27-28	
Print and online clips about the Clean Power Plan*	52
Positive clips	22
Negative clips	20
Neutral clips	10
Positive op-eds	4
Negative op-eds	3

* Does not include Public New Service stories

Pre-Hearing Press Events

At a Campaign-supported press conference on Thursday, the League of Conservation Voters and Center for American Progress announced the launch of LCV's advertising campaign against the US Chamber of Commerce's assault on EPA and the ad, called "Deoperate" pollution standards. highlights the Chamber's misplaced priorities ' to profit protect over pollution public health and and features quotes from independent fact checkers as well as top regional media, including the *Denver Post*, that have called out the Chamber's "false" and "bogus" claims. The ad is running this week in each hearing market. LCV and CAP also released a "buttal" messaging memo on the call.

Yesterday, NRDC hosted a telepresser with Frances Beinecke, president, Natural Resources Defense Council; Margie Alt, executive director, Environment America; Collin O'Mara, presi Wildlife Federation; Michael Brune, executive director, Sierra Club; Nikki Silvestri, executive director, Green for All; and Cornell Belcher, founder, Brilliant Corners. During the call, Green For All released the results of a first of its kind national poll on the state of climate change among communities of color. According to the poll, 75 percent of minority voters pay attention to new information on climate change and 68 percent feel it is an issue we need to be worried about right now, not something we can put off into the future. Thirty-two journalists attended the telepresser, with coverage so far from Politico, The Augusta Chronicle, and other outlets.

Public News Service Stories

The Public News Service, a valuable media partner for delivering messages from Campaign surrogates to multiple media outlets, ran stories about the EPA hearings in 10 states across the country: three of the four hearing states (PA, GA, CO), six additional Campaign states (VA, IA, ME, MI, NH, NC), and Missouri. The stories highlighted the positive health and economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan and featured quotes from Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME), former EPA administrator Carol Browner, Georgetown University

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nursing and health professor Laura Anderko, environmental health specialist Dr. Yolanda Whyte, and others. We will provide statistics on media outlet pick up and audience, as they are available.

PAID MEDIA

Campaign partner Public Citizen called out Murray Energy in a new radio spot for suing EPA to block the carbon pollution standards that will protect all from dangerous air pollution. The ad also says that Murray is using scare tactics and ignoring science in order to get its way. The ad is running in St. Clairsville, OH, near Murray Energy's headquarters, and on KDKA-AM, the number-one rated station in Pittsburgh. So far, the ad has been covered by *Bloomberg*, *The Hill*, and *E&E* and we expect a story by Colorado radio host Tim Danahey. Murray Energy is already threatening to sue Public Citizen.

The Sierra Club and Snowriders also have been running a radio ad in the Denver media market that talks about the impact of carbon pollution on winter sports, and calls for concerned citizens to attend the Denver hearings. Power Magazine covered the ad in a larger piece about the dominance of environmental groups slated to testify in Denver.

The Moms Clean Air Force home page takeovers of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, The Hill, the National Journal, and Politico went live today.

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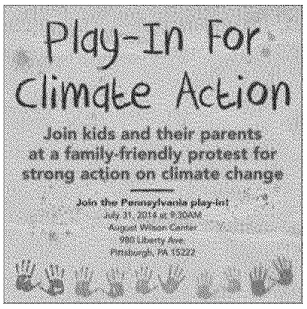
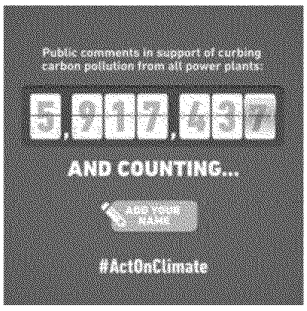
CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN
DAILY HIGHLIGHTS: CLEAN POWER PLAN HEARINGS

JULY 29, 2014

SOCIAL MEDIA & GRASSROOTS

Our digital team has developed and supported the rollout of social media text and graphics to engage supporters and other interested parties around the EPA Hearings. Examples of Facebook and Twitter graphics are below.





D.C. HEARING

Pre-Hearing and Day 1 Event Highlights

The Campaign worked with partner Truman National Security Project to plan a veterans day of action, which included convening a decorated group of veterans to the White House to meet with Dan Utech and Dep. Asst. Sec. of Defense Brent Colburn. The veterans discussed their work on communities across America to combat climate change and were briefed on the Clean Power Plan.

Please see the national media section, above, for a description of other pre-hearing events.

Supporters of the Clean Power Plan outnumbered the opposition this morning outside the EPA building in D.C. Delaware Governor Markell addressed a crowd of more than 250 people near our video truck (pictured on right, below. Two coal supporters from America's Power (pictured on left, below) left during our rally.

We will provide a more comprehensive event report tomorrow, July 30.

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ATLANTA HEARING

Atlanta by the Numbers, 7/27-7/28	
Print and online clips about the Clean Power Plan	4

Pre-Hearing Event Highlights

On a telepresser yesterday, public health and safety officials lauded EPA's ongoing dangerous carbon pollution from power plants and protect public health. Speakers were Atlanta Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran; Dr. Robert Geller, Chief of Pediatrics, Grady Memorial Hospital/Hughes Spalding, Emory University School of Medicine; and Sarah Lovelace, RN, High Risk Asthma Coordinator, Georgia Pediatric Pulmonology Associates. The Associated Press, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Creative Loafing (an alt-weekly) attended.

The Campaign's Communications team also booked Dr. Karen DeMuth on WABE-FM NPR in Atlanta, and Dr. Lynn Ringenberg, PSR's incoming president, for Tuesday's local "Morning Edition" on WABE. The alt-weekly Creative Loafing previewed Dr. Ringenberg's hearing testimony and Georgia Public Broadcasting previewed the Mom's rcelay-in. The stories highlighted the importance of the Clean Power Plan

Notable Opinion Pieces

Lynn Ringenberg, Pediatrician □ According to an op ed by one "Of on the Campaign's Tuesday, I will be traveling to Atlanta to testify at the Environmental Protection Agency's public hearing on the plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. As a pediatrician who has practiced medicine for over 30 years and witnessed the decline in children's health over this support for the plan, which is estimated to prevent 150,000 asthma attacks and 6,600 premature deaths annually by 2030. Every day I practice, I see children struggling to breathe due to asthma worsened by carbon pollution and young kids on three or four different medications to control their asthma symptoms. The quality of life for these children and their families is significantly impacted in a negative way by carbon pollution." [Tampa Tribune,] 7/28/14

DENVER HEARING

Denver by the Numbers, 7/27-7/28	
Event turnout	40
Print and online clips about the Clean Power Plan	2

THE DENVER POST
POLITICS
News Sports Business Entertainment Lifestyles Opinion Politics Yours
HOT TOPICS: Front Range Weather Oil & Gas Spills Immigrant Children Gaza Montes Bell Hochman
Story
BUSINESS
Obama adviser: Colorado well-positioned to succeed under climate rules
By Thad Moore
The Denver Post

Pre-Hearing Event Highlights

Business Forward and The Kenney Group hosted forty Colorado business leaders at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce for a roundtable discussion regarding the President's Climate Act featuring Dan Utech, Special Assistant to the President for Climate Change. The roundtable included representatives from the finance, construction, manufacturing, legal, policy and energy sectors. Mr.

Utech explained that he was in Denver for the Quadrennial Energy Review Public Meetings and wanted stakeholder input on White House climate policy. Participants asked a variety of questions regarding the President's climate action plan ranging from investment opportunities to tax incentives. The event was closed to press, but the communications staff pitched Utech to the Denver Post. According to the story in the Politics section, Utech said "I think Colorado is extremely well-positioned both by the range of clean resources the state has as well as policies that have been put in place and steps that the states and companies here have already taken."

Fox 31 Denver previewed today's Colorado Moms Know conference and 9 News in Denver interviewed winter Olympian Kaylin Richardson about the hearings and Climate Reality's ice cream t

Notable Opinion Pieces

Waleed Abdalati, director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences and former chief scientist for NASA According to an op ed that the Campaign helped place, "This is the government acting as it should, taking the long view on behalf of its citizenry, rising to challenges today to ensure a prosperous tomorrow. However this proposal plays out, it represents a significant step forward. It represents a moment in which at least some of our political leaders decided to stand up and declare that a prosperous tomorrow is worth bold actions today." [Denver Post, 7/28/14]

PITTSBURGH HEARING

Event Highlights

The Pittsburgh hearing starts July 31. We are holding a health press conference tomorrow on the steps of City Hall. TribLive and the Ellwood City Ledger have previewed some of our upcoming activity in Pittsburgh.

OTHER OPPOSITION ACTIVITY

The Campaign's Research team is pointing out by a fact check of the American Council for Clean Coal Electricity's video.

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Andrew Young International
CARBON-FREE
NUCLEAR-FR

To: Sutin, Elyana[Sutin.Elyana@epa.gov]; Cherry, Randall[Cherry.Randall@epa.gov]; Odendahl, Steve[Odendahl.Steve@epa.gov]; Boydston, Michael[Boydston.Michael@epa.gov]; Logan, Paul[Logan.Paul@epa.gov]
From: Laumann, Sara
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:47:25 PM
Subject: RE: 111(d) Hearing Officer Volunteers

I am happy to help too, and wore my suit and heels just in case ☺

From: Sutin, Elyana
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 7:39 AM
To: Cherry, Randall; Odendahl, Steve; Laumann, Sara; Boydston, Michael; Logan, Paul
Subject: RE: 111(d) Hearing Officer Volunteers

Thanks you guys. I do appreciate it.

I will send a special code through an unidentified messenger who will need the secret password "batman" and then you have 30 seconds to accept the mission.

Seriously, I will let you know if I need help.

Elyana

Elyana Sutin

U.S. EPA, Region 8

Regional Judicial Officer

Associate Regional Counsel

sutin.elyana@epa.gov

303.312.6899

From: Cherry, Randall
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 7:07 AM
To: Odendahl, Steve; Sutin, Elyana; Laumann, Sara; Boydston, Michael; Logan, Paul
Subject: RE: 111(d) Hearing Officer Volunteers

I echo Steve's comments.

I am in the office, too, if something should arise.

Randall H. Cherry

U.S EPA

CAA/Patents

303-312-6566

Located in Region 8

From: Odendahl, Steve
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 7:03 AM
To: Sutin, Elyana; Laumann, Sara; Cherry, Randall; Boydston, Michael; Logan, Paul
Subject: RE: 111(d) Hearing Officer Volunteers

Hi Elyana – I wish HQ would let us help you out! I'm in the office today if some emergency should come up.

Steve Odendahl

Associate Regional Counsel

US EPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St., 8RC

Denver, CO 80202

odendahl.steve@epa.gov

(303) 312-6219 -- voice

(303) 312-6859 -- fax

From: Sutin, Elyana
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Laumann, Sara; Odendahl, Steve; Cherry, Randall; Boydston, Michael; Logan, Paul
Subject: 111(d) Hearing Officer Volunteers

Hi All,

Headquarters made a unilateral decision that the hearing chairs can only be relieved for a 4 hour increment. According to the latest schedule, Jenny and I are relieved from 1-5pm both days and Carl, Monica, Scott and someone from HQ will be the chairs. As I said this was a unilateral decision so I am sorry for all the inconvenience and frustration this has caused. I appreciate all the support everyone has provided and your undeterred willingness to help.

Thanks,

Elyana Sutin

U.S. EPA, Region 8

Regional Judicial Officer

Associate Regional Counsel

sutin.elyana@epa.gov

303.312.6899

To: Esher, Diana[Esher.Diana@epa.gov]
From: Koerber, Mike
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 9:05:06 PM
Subject: Re: Friday at Pittsburgh Clean Power Plan Hearing

You, too. Thanks, Diana.

From: Esher, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:02:31 PM
To: Koerber, Mike
Subject: RE: Friday at Pittsburgh Clean Power Plan Hearing

I'll make the offer to Tom. I'll see you in Room B on Thursday morning if not before.

Have a good trip!

Diana Esher, Director

Air Protection Division

EPA Region 3

215-814-2706

esher.diana@epa.gov

From: Koerber, Mike
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:00 PM
To: Esher, Diana
Subject: Re: Friday at Pittsburgh Clean Power Plan Hearing

Thanks, Diana, but I, too, am planning to stay for the Friday night session. Perhaps, Tom might want to leave early - he is chairing the other evening session. You might ask him.

Mike

From: Esher, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:55:20 PM
To: Koerber, Mike

Subject: Friday at Pittsburgh Clean Power Plan Hearing

Hi Mike,

I was just looking at the Friday, August 1st schedule for the panel in Pittsburgh.

I noticed that you are chairing the 6:00 to 9:00 pm session in Room B. I'm the chair from 1:00 to 5:00. I wanted to offer to chair the 6:00 to 9:00 session if that enables you to leave Pittsburgh earlier in the day on Friday. I have to stay Friday night in Pittsburgh so I have no problem taking your place during that evening session. So if this gives you a chance to go home instead of staying until Saturday, let me know!

Diana Esher, Director

Air Protection Division

EPA Region 3

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:07:12 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by the National Biodiesel Board: Climate costs will jump without action, White House says — Inside the EPA climate rule hearings

By Alex Guillén | 7/29/14 6:05 AM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon and Andrew Restuccia

WHITE HOUSE — CLIMATE COSTS WILL JUMP WITHOUT ACTION: Failure to act on climate change could be a multi-billion-dollar mistake, the White House says in a report today marking its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country. The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Andrew Restuccia has the story: http://politico.pro/1uCONHp

— In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week. On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development. White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

SETTLE IN — INSIDE THE EPA CLIMATE RULE HEARINGS: An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings. Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third. Andrew Restuccia has more: http://politico.pro/1rUcg3o

Those speaking in D.C. today include: Sen. Ed Markey, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), National Mining Association President and CEO Hal Quinn, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, Electric Reliability Coordinating Council counsel and former EPA air chief Jeff Holmstead, Algae Biomass Organization Executive Director Matt Carr, American Wind Energy Association Senior Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs Tom Vinson, Hip Hop Caucus President and CEO Lennox Yearwood Jr., and Environment America Washington Director Anna Aurilio. Also: Richard Kennedy, who identifies himself as a retired CIA employee.

What's two minutes between friends? Yesterday's edition mistakenly said speakers at EPA's hearings get three minutes to talk; they actually get five.

You scream, ME screams, we all scream: Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and Ben & Jerry's are serving free ice cream out of trucks outside EPA headquarters today from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case you were wondering, B&J retired the flavor Fossil Fuel ("Sweet Cream Ice Cream with

Chocolate Cookie Pieces, Fudge Dinosaurs & a Fudge Swirl") back in 2010.

Good timing: Acting EPA air chief Janet McCabe is the is the star attraction at the American Gas Association's monthly Natural Gas Roundtable today. Details: http://bit.ly/1kPdQAQ

— Obama climate adviser Dan Utech says Colorado is "extremely well-positioned" to meet EPA's carbon cuts. Denver Post: http://dpo.st/1ArIHKu

— The Morning Consult talks to 15 state energy officials about EPA's climate rule: http://bit.ly/1pvGmWh

FERC WEIGHS IN ON EPA CLIMATE RULES: The Energy and Commerce Committee's energy and power panel hears from FERC commissioners this morning about EPA's proposed climate rules and grid reliability issues. Acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur will tell lawmakers that her agency is keeping an eye on EPA's climate rule when it comes to the electric grid's reliability, according to her prepared testimony. Since EPA's draft Clean Power Plan moved into the OMB interagency review process, FERC has been all over it, she says. FERC staff, for example, have emphasized that natural gas pipeline capacity should be looked at from a regional perspective rather than solely a national one because of existing constraints on the system — especially because EPA's proposal relies on greater natural gas-fired output. LaFleur also says that FERC staff have pressed the EPA to "not only allow but also encourage regional compliance." Moreover, her staff have given estimated construction timelines for electric transmission projects needed to bring remote renewable power to consumers.

— LaFleur also notes that FERC's work with EPA on the latter's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule provides a good example of how FERC can lend its reliability expertise as the EPA implements new environmental regulations like the Clean Power Plan. The "core tenets" of the two rules are different, but she points to the public forums with state regulators as well as regular conference calls with EPA, DOE and grid operators as efforts that presage the work that will likely happen with development of EPA climate rule.

But her colleagues made it clear that while some agency staff may be helping the EPA with its proposal, agency leaders without the gavel know very little about the activities. In response to a question about whether EPA had consulted them about the draft climate rule, LaFleur's colleague all wrote some variant of Commissioner Tony Clark's succinct response: "EPA did not consult with me." FERC Meanwhile, Commissioner John Norris' testimony doesn't mince words and takes a shot at Congress' legislative foot-dragging on energy and climate change. "I believe America can lead the world in the effort to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change. I have been hopeful for a number of years that Congress would step up to the challenge and pass legislation to begin that effort," he writes. "Unfortunately, to date, that has not occurred." Congress' failure to pass energy legislation and address climate change has "discouraged needed investment in technologies that can help us address climate change."

— For his part, FERC's chairman-in-waiting, Norman Bay, noted that his work as enforcement director meant that he had "not been involved in the EPA rulemaking." Commissioner responses to preliminary questions: http://1.usa.gov/1rLKwzu. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in Rayburn

2123.

HAPPY TUESDAY and welcome to Morning Energy. Send your energy news to aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexcguillen, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

U.S., EU TO TOUGHEN RUSSIA SANCTIONS: Via the New York Times: "The United States and Europe put aside their differences and agreed Monday to sharply escalate economic sanctions against Russia amid worries that Moscow is stepping up its intervention in Ukraine and may be setting the stage for an outright invasion. … [T]he package to be finalized Tuesday would go much further, matching and in some cases exceeding the actions Mr. Obama took on his own this month in blocking access to medium- and long-term American capital markets for some of Russia's largest and most global banking and energy companies. … They are also considering limits on technology sales to Russia's oil industry." NYT: http://nyti.ms/UyLXTj

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THE DAY OF TOO MANY HEARINGS: In case today's EPA-palooza wasn't enough, there are no fewer than nine energy-related hearings on Capitol Hill today. Here's what you need to know about the most important ones, besides the FERC hearing covered above; Pros can get details on the rest in the calendar section below.

Climate change and the budget: The Budget Committee holds a hearing on the economic and budgetary consequences of climate change. Climate change poses both and environmental and economic threat, particularly if it goes unchecked, Chairwoman Patty Murray will say, according to remarks previewed for ME. "These costs are too important to ignore, and it's time for the Budget Committee to begin to assess the damage climate change will have on our budget and economy," she will say. "Failing to act now will only make it more difficult to solve this problem later, and will force us to divert resources away from other priorities. So, let me be clear on this point. Anyone who, like me, wants to tackle our long-term fiscal challenges fairly and responsibly, needs also to worry about the impacts of climate change." http://1.usa.gov/1rIt4vy. 10 a.m., Dirksen 608

Climate change threats: The Environment and Public Works Committee's clean air panel holds a hearing on the threats posed by climate change. The Hill hearing, chaired by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, is aimed at complementing the EPA hearings by offering up details on the dangers posed by climate change — and thus by fossil fuels. http://1.usa.gov/1nBG6HU. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 406

Accelerating BLM permitting: The Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing on the energy production permitting process on federal lands at the Bureau of Land Management. The hearing is another chance for Chairwoman Mary Landrieu and other panel members up for reelection to hammer the administration about speeding up energy permitting

ahead of the August recess. BLM Director Neil Kornze will be on hand, along with energy industry representatives. http://1.usa.gov/1rKvp7V. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 366

ADMINISTRATION PUTS HOLD ON CONDENSATE OIL EXPORT REQUESTS, FOR NOW — REPORT: Reuters reports: "The U.S. Commerce Department has put on hold at least two companies' requests for permission to sell lightly processed crude abroad, effectively stalling an industry push to export an expanding glut of oil amid the U.S. shale revolution, sources said. … This may also give the agency more time to put together some form of comprehensive public guidance about what kind of oil can or cannot be exported, answering industry's growing cry for clarity. It is unclear when such a document may be finalized, but several sources said they think it could occur within weeks." Reuters: http://reut.rs/1pxSp5g

NWF CUTS SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS: The National Wildlife Federation cut several positions on Monday, including some senior staff positions, the environmental group said. "The changes today will help National Wildlife Federation focus more resources on the ground protecting wildlife, conserving habitat, and connecting Americans — especially children — with nature, as we work to rebuild the nation's conservation movement," new NWF President and CEO Collin O'Mara said in a statement. "We remain fully committed to working with members of both parties to make measurable progress, giving voice to our 49 state affiliates and 4 million members, supporters and all who care about the future of wildlife." The group would not disclose which staffers or positions had been cut or why cuts were being made.

EPA SHOULD DO MORE TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM OIL, GAS WELLS — GAO: EPA needs to do more to ensure underground drinking water sources are protected from oil and gas injections wells, the Government Accountability Office says in a new report. The 103-page report notes EPA and state regulators face budgetary limitations, but faults the agency's oversight of the nation's 172,000 wells used to enhance production or for disposal. The burgeoning oil and gas industry, the report adds, present new problems for EPA, including increased risk of seismic activity and increasing pressure on geologic formations. "EPA is not consistently conducting two key oversight and enforcement activities for class II programs," the report says. EPA "does not consistently conduct annual on-site state program evaluations" because of a lack of resources, and EPA "may not be able to enforce all state program requirements," the report concludes. GAO recommends EPA direct a working group to review emerging risks from class II wells; revise program guidance as needed to create effective oversight; and complete a national database, among other things. Read: http://1.usa.gov/1qHWV7Y

POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL HAS HIGH SOCIAL COST — CAP: Coal extracted from the Powder River Basin and burned releases carbon pollution that causes a social cost of $62 per short ton, more than four times what the coal sells for domestically, according to a paper out today from the Center for American Progress. Based on 2012 production levels, that means there was a social cost of $19 billion from PRB coal, CAP writes. The coal produced from the PRB is also undervalued by the government's leasing process, CAP says, meaning the treasury is missing out on larger royalty payments — a complaint lodged by others, including the GAO and Interior's inspector general. CAP's report: http://bit.ly/1zoAyoI

GASOLINE PRICES CONTINUE TO SLIDE: National gasoline prices have continued to slide to $3.52 per gallon, the lowest average since March 17, according to AAA. Despite international tensions, gasoline prices have dropped every day in July, and are 16 cents lowers than a month ago and 11 cents lower than this date last year, the group said.

MOVER, SHAKER: The NRC has picked Maureen Wylie as its new chief financial officer Wylie previously spent 10 years at NOAA, including eight years at that agency's CFO, and before that spent almost two decades as a civilian Army employee. She replaces James Dyer, who retired from the NRC in May.

FLOOR WATCH — HOUSE TAKES UP ESA BILL: The House is slated to take up later today H.R. 4315, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act. The bill, which attracted one Democratic vote in committee, requires the Interior and Commerce Departments to post online information used to determining ESA listings, and to report to Congress on the funds the administration spends litigating ESA lawsuits.

QUICK HITS

— Iraq has convinced a U.S. judge to order the seizure of $100 million worth of oil in a tanker anchored off Galveston because the oil was allegedly pumped from illegal Kurdish wells. Bloomberg: http://bloom.bg/1pz5prB

— EPA says the biggest Western coal-fired power plant, the Navajo Generating Station, must produce a third less electricity by 2020 and could close by 2044. AP: http://abcn.ws/X6p6Ag

— Emails between PG&E and California regulators show close ties, newly released documents show. AP: http://bit.ly/1k51JkJ

— Iowa Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst says she doesn't have a problem attending a fundraiser co-hosted by oil-related PACs. WHOtv: http://bit.ly/1pnkuPC

— Environmental groups, including Greenpeace, 350.org and WildEarth Guardians, write to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to cancel a coal lease sale scheduled for Wednesday. Letter: http://politico.pro/1pyHkRA

— General Mills is instituting new methods to combat climate change by reducing emissions at suppliers and contractors, among other things. Los Angeles: http://lat.ms/1oDcvyR

— Nicolas Cage was spotted in D.C. while filming a movie about a congressman post-BP spill. DCist: http://bit.ly/UH91ip

— The Charleston Gazette's Ken Ward Jr. has some criticism of Natalie Tennant's pro-coal ad: http://bit.ly/WKm053

HAPPENING TODAY

8 a.m. — DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office holds its seventh annual conference. Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson and Federal Environmental Executive Kate Brandt speak. http://1.usa.gov/1t21D1g. Washington Convention Center

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's energy and mineral resources panel holds a hearing on two geothermal bills and a renewable energy bill. http://1.usa.gov/1usZmgf. Longworth 1334

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's public lands panel holds a hearing on several bills. http://1.usa.gov/1pfEkcx. Longworth 1324

10 a.m. — The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's economic growth panel holds a hearing on allegations of corruption at the Export-Import Bank. http://1.usa.gov/UsprLK. Rayburn 2154

10 a.m. — The House Science Committee's research panel holds a hearing on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. http://1.usa.gov/1rUa8aL. Rayburn 2318

10 a.m. — Moms and their children gather for "Play-In(s) for Climate Action." Federal Triangle

10:30 a.m. — The Senate Commerce Committee's ocean panel holds a hearing on the RESTORE Act and issues with Gulf restoration post-BP spill. http://1.usa.gov/1ntVMgZ. Russell 253

1:30 p.m. — United for a Healthy Anacostia River and the District Department of the Environment hold a boat tour of the Anacostia River Sediment Project. 1900 M Street SE

2 p.m. — The Woodrow Wilson Center holds an event on national security and climate change. White House adviser Alice Hill participates. http://bit.ly/1opfOIr. Ronald Reagan Building

6:30 p.m. — The American Council for Capital Formation holds a policy event with Sen. John Hoeven and Reps. G.K. Butterfield, Cynthia Lummis, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Reid Ribble. Florida House on Capitol Hill, 1 Second St. NE

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Stories from POLITICO Pro

White House: Climate costs will jump without action

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule

White House: Climate costs will jump without action back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/29/14 6:00 AM EDT

Failure to act on climate change could be a multibillion-dollar mistake, the White House said in a report Tuesday that marked its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country.

The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

The report comes on the same day that the EPA begins a series of public hearings on its greenhouse gas regulation for existing power plants, the centerpiece of Obama's climate change agenda. The proposed rule has come under assault from Republicans, some moderate Democrats and industry groups who worry that it will damage the economy and kill thousands of jobs.

But the White House is working diligently to undercut those criticisms, arguing that its climate change policies will not only improve the environment but also give the U.S. a long-term economic advantage.

The new report warns that delaying action on climate change comes with a heavy price tag. A delay that causes an emissions rise of 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, rather than 2 degrees "could increase economic damages by approximately 0.9 percent of global output."

That's about equal to $150 billion in damage to the United States economy, the report says.

"Our report is very much a motivation for the types of actions the United States has taken in recent years as well as engaging with our global partners — because acting today will save us money, save us time and help advance a wide range of objectives," Jason Furman, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters.

The report analyzed existing research on the costs of inaction on climate change. Furman said

the Council of Economic Advisers came up with the 40 percent figure by reviewing 16 studies. The White House said the report's estimates are conservative.

"I should say that the technique we used, if anything, would lead us to understate the cost of delay," Furman said.

The White House also made the case that implementing policies like EPA's climate regulation is like taking out an environmental insurance policy.

"[C]limate policy can be thought of as 'climate insurance' taken out against the most severe and irreversible potential consequences of climate change," the report says.

In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week.

On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development.

Moniz will announce "a series of executive actions, partnerships and stakeholder commitments to continue to make progress in modernizing the nation's natural gas transmission and distribution systems, which will have the benefit of reducing methane emissions," according to Dan Utech, Obama's climate and energy adviser.

Tuesday marks the last of five roundtable meetings with industry, environmental, labor and other groups aimed at improving natural gas infrastructure and reducing downstream methane emissions. The announcement follows up on a wide-ranging methane strategy the White House unveiled earlier this year.

White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

Podesta added that companies like IBM and Microsoft would be making announcements "about how they can build the tools necessary for our agricultural community to respond to the changes in weather patterns that the country is going to experience." The announcement is part of a broader White House climate change data initiative.back

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/28/14 5:51 PM EDT

Get comfortable.

An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings.

Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third.

The grueling 11-hour sessions, which will be held over two days in Washington, Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh, aren't likely to bridge the massive gap between the Republicans and industry groups that hate the rule and the liberals and environmentalists who love it.

Instead, expect both sides to dig in their heels, polishing off long-standing talking points about how the regulation is likely to either destroy the economy or save the planet.

It's difficult to draw any broad conclusions from the hearings about how the average person feels about the regulation because many of those who will testify are closely associated with groups that have taken stands for or against the proposed carbon restrictions. Environmental and industry groups have both hired buses to send members to the hearings in droves. Polls show that the majority of the public supports the rule.

The hearings are shaping up to be something of a spectacle, with many groups planning splashy events aimed at standing out in the crowd.

The Koch-backed group Americans for Prosperity, for example, is holding rallies in Atlanta and Denver on Tuesday. AFP President Tim Phillips, who will testify at the hearing, will speak at the rally in Atlanta, along with Kentucky Coal Association President Bill Bissett.

Unsurprisingly, the coal industry will have a major presence at the hearings. Officials with the industry group American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity are scheduled to testify at all four hearings, and the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and the Colorado Mining Association are each busing miners to the rallies in their states. The United Mine Workers of America is holding a rally in opposition to the rule on Thursday in Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is slated to speak at Wednesday's hearing in Washington, D.C. He'll then hold a press conference with members of the Congressional Coal Caucus and Jimmy Rose, a former coal miner who rose to prominence in conservative circles after singing the song "Coal Keeps the Lights On" on the reality show "America's Got Talent."

McConnell is facing a tight reelection bid in Kentucky, the nation's third-largest coal producer, and he has emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the rule. He has authored a bill to kill the regulation and he regularly warns in Senate floor speeches that it would destroy the coal industry.

Other lawmakers scheduled to testify at the hearings: Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, the Republican Senate candidate from West Virginia. After speaking at Tuesday's hearing in Washington, Markey will hold a press conference with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, a Johns Hopkins University medical professor and representatives from the Latino Victory Project, Green Latinos and the Hip Hop Caucus.

But EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday she won't be attending any of the hearings. "That would be pretty unprecedented," McCarthy told reporters. "And it's not really about me. It's about listening to people coming in."

And the rhetoric is already heating up.

Republican Rep. Mike Kelly compared EPA's tactics to "terrorism" Monday at a Heritage Foundation forum on the EPA.

Kelly paraphrased the infamous words of former EPA Regional Administrator Al Armendariz, who resigned two years ago after a video showed him saying that his enforcement philosophy was "kind of like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw and they would crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years."

"You talk about terrorism," Kelly said. "You can do it in a lot of different ways."

Greens are also planning events surrounding the hearings.

The Moms Clean Air Force is organizing "play-ins" with moms and their children outside the four hearings this week. The events are aimed at underscoring the public health benefits of the rule, particularly for children.

Environmental groups sought to project a united front in support of the rule ahead of the hearings.

"It's the biggest step we've ever taken against climate change, which today is already harming our health and environment," Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke said on a call with reporters Monday, referring to EPA's climate rule.

"We can't wait any longer to protect ourselves and future generations," Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt added.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said he expects "busloads" of the group's members to attend the hearings. And Beinecke said she expects doctors, farmers and mayors to attend, as well as NRDC members.

While several environmental groups have said they hope to push for improvements to the rule, expect greens to focus on their broad support for the regulation.

"Our focus at these hearings is going to be that this is an absolutely essential step forward," Beinecke said.

*Amy R. Sisk and Erica Martinson contributed to this report.*back

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Subject: BNA: Power Plant Rule Would Threaten Economy With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says

Power Plant Rule Would Threaten Economy With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says

Wednesday, July 30, 2014
from Daily Environment Report™

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By Andrew Childers

July 29 — An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would drive up electricity costs and cause significant job losses without providing a tangible climate benefit, coal-reliant states and industry groups said at a public hearing July 29.

"The U.S. cannot go it alone and expect that our actions will have a meaningful climate impact in a world economy that is using more coal and more fossil fuels every day," Paul Cicio, president of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said a hearing in Washington.

Utilities and industry groups called on the EPA to conduct further economic analysis of its proposal before issuing a final rule. Environmental groups largely supported the proposal but pushed the EPA to seek greater emissions reductions from the power sector through increased investments in renewable generation and demand reduction programs.

“Protecting our children from carbon pollution is your legal duty and our moral obligation,” Greg Dotson, vice president for energy policy at the Center for American Progress, said.

The EPA's proposed standards would set a unique carbon dioxide emissions rate for the power sector in each state (RIN 2060-AR33). The states would administer the standards under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. The EPA anticipates its proposal could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the existing fleet of power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 at a cost to the power industry of $5.4 billion to $8.8 billion in 2030 (79 Fed. Reg. 34,959).

Job Losses Feared

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pledged to continue to oppose the EPA's proposed rule in Congress and criticized the agency's failure to hold public listening sessions on the rule in coal-producing states.

“By not coming to West Virginia, to Kentucky, to the coal-producing and coal-consuming states, you send a message that our views and our experiences don't matter,” she said. “To have the federal government refuse to listen to that segment is frustrating and demoralizing for us.”

The EPA also accepted public comments at hearings in Atlanta and Denver July 29.

It will continue to accept comments July 30 during public hearings in Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C., and July 31 and Aug. 1 in Pittsburgh.

Coal proponents said the emissions rates the EPA has proposed would largely preclude states from relying on coal-fired generation. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said the proposal would allow coal-dependent states to continue to rely on coal-fired generation.

Capito predicted the EPA's proposed rule could increase electricity prices and cause significant job losses in West Virginia, which produces 95 percent of its electricity from coal.

Unions also were concerned about potential job losses as coal-fired power plants retire in response to the EPA's proposed carbon dioxide standards as well as other emissions limits for power plants.

Bruce Burton, representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said 40 percent of the existing coal power plant fleet is expected to retire as result of the EPA's carbon dioxide proposal and existing mercury and air toxics standards (MATS). That equates to 400,000 lost jobs, he said.

“Given the IBEW's experience with MATS, those numbers could be much worse,” Burton said.

Additional Analysis Needed

Shifting electricity generation from coal to natural gas presents reliability concerns because natural gas cannot be stockpiled, Cicio said. Rising electricity prices could cause more manufacturers to offshore their operations, which could actually increase emissions, he said. Cicio said the EPA needs to consider this “carbon leakage” when it tallies the benefits of its proposal.

“We need to be honest with each other. There will be jobs created in the renewable energy sector and other sectors, but there will be job losses in other sectors,” Jeffrey Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell & Giuliani LLP who represents the power industry, said on behalf of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council.

Mary Martin, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the EPA has not sufficiently evaluated what impacts its proposal would have on small businesses. She called on the EPA to convene a small business review panel under the Regulatory Flexibility Act and further evaluate the impact its regulations have on employment as required by Section 321 of the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Groups Want Stronger Rule

Environmental groups supported the EPA's proposal but argued the agency could do more to encourage the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Industry groups historically have overestimated the cost of complying with air pollution regulations, environmental groups said.

“Industry has certainly done their best to scare the public,” Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said. “They do it every time we try to make the air cleaner. Every time their predictions have been flat wrong.”

Despite their protests, environmental groups said power plants have been able to deliver cost-effective emissions reductions under EPA regulations in the past.

“Electric utilities are typically sophisticated entities that can innovate and respond to policy direction,” Dotson of the Center for American Progress said.

States Praise Outreach

State air pollution regulators also supported the EPA's proposal but asked the agency to extend the compliance deadline for states that may need to take legislative action to comply.

Additionally, state regulators said at the hearing in Atlanta July 29 that the EPA's proposed rule may not give states that already have taken steps to address greenhouse gas emissions enough credit for those measures.

At the hearing in Denver July 29, speakers also described the impacts climate change is having on the West, including reduced snowpack, hotter fires, bigger floods, and more prolonged droughts.

Praise for State Outreach

At the Washington hearing, Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, praised the EPA for its outreach to states prior to proposing the rule. The rule will provide state air pollution regulators with the flexibility to develop the compliance plans that best suit their needs.

"EPA not only engaged in discussion, it also listened carefully to what was said," Becker said.

Supreme Court Cited

Opponents of the EPA's proposed rule argued that the U.S. Supreme Court had recently cautioned the EPA about reading its ability to regulate greenhouse gases too broadly.

"When an agency claims to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power to regulate 'a significant portion of the American economy,'*Brown & Williamson*, 529 U. S., at 159, we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a recent opinion that limited the scope of the EPA's greenhouse gas permitting program (*Util. Air Regulatory Grp. v. EPA,* 2014 BL 17297, U.S., No. 12-1146, 6/23/14).

Matt Schlapp, chairman of American Conservative Union, argued the EPA's interpretation of its authority to regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act is overly broad. Instead, he said Congress should take action to address climate change.

"If the goal is to make sound policy, our democratic system is the right system to use, not bureaucratic fiat," he said.

The EPA could actually delay taking action on climate change if its rule is too ambitious and is eventually struck down by the courts as unlawful, Holmstead said.

"The Supreme Court has not given EPA a roving mandate to do whatever it thinks is best," he said.

Democrats Support Proposal

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), who authored a greenhouse gas cap and trade bill in 2009, said Massachusetts already has reduced carbon dioxide emissions from its power plants by 40 percent from 2005 levels as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, demonstrating the EPA's proposal is feasible.

"America must lead. History calls us to reduce greenhouse gases and unleash a clean energy revolution," he said.

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell (D) argued that states can transition to a cleaner electricity generator sector without disrupting the economy, citing his own state's experience.

"We know this in Delaware where we've shifted from one of the dirtiest energy mixes in the nation to one of the cleanest," he said.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) called climate change "a direct assault on rural America" because warming temperatures already are impacting forestry and fishing jobs in his state.

"If you talk to foresters in Oregon, climate change is not some distant threat. It's happening now," he said.

Other Democrats touted the EPA's estimate the proposal would provide between $55 billion and $93 billion in health benefits in 2030.

"The economic case, I think, is compelling," Rep. Anna Eschoo (D-Calif.) said.

The EPA will accept written comment on the proposed rule until Oct. 16. Comment can be made at http://www.regulations.gov and should reference Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602.

To contact the reporter on this story: Andrew Childers in Washington at achilders@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Larry Pearl in Washington at lpearl@bna.com

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Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873

Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Capece, Brandon[Capece.Brandon@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:10:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: CPP Hearing Stories

Perfect! Please continue checking throughout the day.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Capece, Brandon" <Capece.Brandon@epa.gov>
Date: July 31, 2014 at 11:09:35 AM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: CPP Hearing Stories

This seems to be the only thing:

Climate Progress – "At EPA Hearing, Religious Leaders Call Carbon Pollution 'An Affront To God'"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Speaking to three administrators for the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, David Kepley, an elder and deacon at the Providence Presbyterian Church, quoted Leviticus.

"God said 'the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants,'" he said. "'Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.'"

To be wasteful of the land's bounty … is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God.

The verses, Kepley said, allude to several themes. For one, God has encouraged us not just to draw sustenance from the land, but to replenish it — to act as stewards of Creation. For another, the verses compare humans to "renters" in God's house, meaning we can't just trash God's house with unmitigated pollution.

“To me this means that to be wasteful of the land’s bounty or to despoil it with substances that are harmful to people or other life forms is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God,” Kepley said. “In my view, the EPA has identified one of those areas where we humans have ignored our role as good stewards of the Creation.”

Kepley was just one of at least 28 religious leaders who urged the EPA at two D.C. hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday not to weaken — and at times to strengthen — its proposed regulations on carbon emissions from coal plants. The proposed rule represents the Obama Administration’s most ambitious move yet to combat one of the main drivers behind climate change.

The rule has drawn strong criticism from Republicans, the party that religious groups — particularly Christians — have often been associated with. But on Tuesday and Wednesday, leaders from Presbyterian, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Quaker, and Baptist congregations spoke out in strong support of the rule, with most speakers calling it a moral obligation to God. Leaders from Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Baha’i groups also testified in support of the rule.

Before man was asked to love his neighbor, love God, or care for the least of these, he was asked to love the earth.

“In the religious communities with which I work, people are heart-sick about the role of fossil fuels in producing the heat-trapping gases that are causing climate change,” said Joelle Novey, the director of Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit that engages religious communities on climate issues. “They are working to reduce their electricity use in their sanctuaries and at home. They are climbing up on ladders to change to more efficient lightbulbs. They are working together to support clean energy through their energy bills.”

Despite their own personal efforts, though, some religious leaders recognize that a large portion of greenhouse gases emitted in the United States come from coal plants, representing 24.5 percent of total U.S. emissions. And to them, being part of such a large contribution to climate change — the adverse effects of which primary impact low-income communities and third world countries — is morally unacceptable.

“Climate change disproportionately impacts the very people who we are called to serve,” said Patricia Bruckbauer, an eco-justice fellow at Creation Justice Ministries. “Those who have consistently contributed the least to our changing climate are generally the ones who suffer the most … low-income communities, communities of color, the elderly and children.”

Every religious group that testified on Wednesday afternoon in Washington D.C. spoke out in support of the EPA rule regulating coal. But at similar hearings in Alabama on Tuesday, state government officials argued the opposite — saying that the regulations “flouted the Almighty’s will by regulating a God-given

resource," according to a Huffington Post report.

"Who has the right to take what God's given a state?" Alabama Public Service Commission member-elect Chip Beeker reportedly said.

But Christians who testified Wednesday in support of the rules widely cited the second chapter of Genesis, in which the first thing that God asks man to do is care for and maintain the earth.

"Before man was asked to love his neighbor, love God, or care for the least of these, he was asked to love the earth," said Rev. Marjani Dele, the minister of missions at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. "You could say that it was a type of first commandment."

We view clean air as a gift from God.

It may be surprising for some to see religious groups — particularly Christians who are often politically associated with conservatives — come out in support of what have sometimes been seen as liberal environmental initiatives. But the EPA hearings were far from the first time that religious groups have rallied to fight global warming. Earlier this month, The World Council of Churches — a large umbrella group of churches representing more than half a billion Christians worldwide — announced that it would pull all of its investments in fossil fuels, saying it had determined the investments were no longer ethical.

Pope Francis has also spoken widely about his concern for the environment, most recently telling a group of fellow Catholics that rainforest destruction is a "sin." The Pope has also made the religious case for tackling climate change, warning a massive crowd in Rome that "if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us."

At the hearing on Wednesday, Bruckbauer agreed, expressing hope that the coal industry could one day get on board with policies that reduce carbon pollution.

"We view clean air as a gift from god," she said. "Responding to the injustices of pollution is important to people of faith, and should be important to industry leaders as well."

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/31/3466008/epa-coal-rules-religious-leaders-support/

To: Belanger, Matt S[MBelanger@hearst.com]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:01:58 PM
Subject: RE: EPA Hearing

Here you go:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-pittsburgh-pa

From: Belanger, Matt S [mailto:MBelanger@hearst.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Jones, Enesta
Subject: Re: EPA Hearing

Do you have a schedule?

On Jul 31, 2014, at 10:58 AM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, Matt.

From: Belanger, Matt S [mailto:MBelanger@hearst.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Jones, Enesta
Subject: EPA Hearing

Good morning--

Are TV news cameras allowed into today's hearing? I'm the reporter assigned to cover it for WTAE Pittsburgh.

Thanks,
Matt

To: Adams, Chris[cadams@mcclatchydc.com]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 12:24:19 PM
Subject: Re: Speakers for hearing

It may take a couple of weeks.

But you can go to the docket now to see some of the comments we have already received prior to the hearings.

Link to the docket:http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602-0001

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 31, 2014, at 8:19 AM, "Adams, Chris" <cadams@mcclatchydc.com> wrote:

Any idea how long that will take? Days? Weeks?
Chris

On Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 8:05 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Chris,
There will be transcripts.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 31, 2014, at 8:04 AM, "Adams, Chris" <cadams@mcclatchydc.com> wrote:

Enesta:
Thanks for the link to power-plan speakers.

On these hearings: Will there be archived video of them available? Or written transcripts?

Thanks,
Chris Adams
McClatchy Washington Bureau
202-383-6071

On Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 2:13 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-washington-dc

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
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--

Chris Adams
National Correspondent
McClatchy Washington Bureau
700 12th St. N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005-3994
202-383-6071

McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS: The Miami Herald * The Sacramento Bee * Kansas City Star * Fort Worth Star-Telegram * Raleigh News & Observer * The Charlotte Observer * The (Tacoma) News Tribune * The Fresno Bee * The Modesto Bee * Merced Sun-Star * Tri-City Herald * Belleville News Democrat * The (Biloxi) Sun Herald * Bradenton Herald * The (Columbia) State * Columbus Ledger-Enquirer * Lexington Herald Leader * The Macon Telegraph * el Nuevo Herald * The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News * The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune * (State College) Centre Daily Times * The Wichita Eagle * The Beaufort Gazette * The (Rock Hill) Herald * The (Bluffton) Island Packet * The (Olympia) Olympian * The Bellingham Herald

--

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McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS: The Miami Herald * The Sacramento Bee * Kansas City Star * Fort Worth Star-Telegram * Raleigh News & Observer * The Charlotte Observer * The (Tacoma) News Tribune * The Fresno Bee * The Modesto Bee * Merced Sun-Star * Tri-City Herald * Belleville News Democrat * The (Biloxi) Sun Herald * Bradenton Herald * The (Columbia) State * Columbus Ledger-Enquirer * Lexington Herald Leader * The Macon Telegraph * el Nuevo Herald * The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News * The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune * (State College) Centre Daily Times * The Wichita Eagle * The Beaufort Gazette * The (Rock Hill) Herald * The (Bluffton) Island Packet * The (Olympia) Olympian * The Bellingham Herald

To: Adams, Chris[cadams@mcclatchydc.com]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 12:05:17 PM
Subject: Re: Speakers for hearing

Chris,
There will be transcripts.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 31, 2014, at 8:04 AM, "Adams, Chris" <cadams@mcclatchydc.com> wrote:

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Chris Adams
McClatchy Washington Bureau
202-383-6071

On Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 2:13 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-washington-dc

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
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--

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McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS: The Miami Herald * The Sacramento Bee * Kansas City Star * Fort Worth Star-Telegram * Raleigh News & Observer * The Charlotte Observer * The (Tacoma) News Tribune * The Fresno Bee * The Modesto Bee * Merced Sun-Star * Tri-City Herald * Belleville News Democrat * The (Biloxi) Sun Herald * Bradenton Herald * The (Columbia) State * Columbus Ledger-Enquirer * Lexington Herald Leader * The Macon Telegraph * el Nuevo Herald * The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News * The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune * (State College) Centre Daily Times * The Wichita Eagle * The Beaufort Gazette * The (Rock Hill) Herald * The (Bluffton) Island Packet * The (Olympia) Olympian * The Bellingham Herald

To: cadams@mcclatchydc.com[cadams@mcclatchydc.com]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 6:13:36 PM
Subject: Speakers for hearing

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-washington-dc

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Dennis, Allison[Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 1:47:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: Media Tracking

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stangl, Emily" <Stangl.Emily@epa.gov>
Date: July 29, 2014 at 4:55:41 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Tracking

All of the articles that I have found before 4 p.m.:

9News

EPA hearing to draw big crowds in Denver

http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/climate-change-epa-hearing/13307887/

The Daily Caller

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sj6Rodt

The Guardian

EPA to hold public hearings on new rules to cut carbon emissions

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/29/epa-hearings-pollution-carbon-emissions

The Tribune

Across US, opponents and supporters call power-plant pollution rules too much or too little

http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/84014de7329e420e8796aac2a475a9cf/US--Climate-Change-EPA

MSN Money

Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20140729&id=17813858

St. Louis Public Radio

Peabody Asks EPA To Withdraw Carbon Emissions Proposal

http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/peabody-asks-epa-withdraw-carbon-emissions-proposal

Craig Daily Press

EPA hearings prompt Craig and Steamboat constituents to rally for coal in Denver Tuesday

http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2014/jul/29/craig-and-steamboat-coal-constituents-head-denver-/

Star News Online

Activists, officials, residents gather in support of Clean Power Plan

http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20140729/ARTICLES/140729610?Title=Activists-officials-residents-gather-in-support-of-Clean-Power-Plan

Fetch Your News

EPA Hearings To be Held Today and Tomorrow in Atlanta-Political Titans to Hold Separate Rallies

http://fannin.fetchyournews.com/archives/6224-EPA-Hearings-To-be-Held-Today-and-Tomorrow-in-Atlanta-Political-Titans-to-Hold-Separate-Rallies.html

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html

Bloomberg BNA

The Top Five Bloomberg BNA Energy and Climate Report Stories for the Week Ending July 25

http://www.bna.com/top-five-bloomberg-b17179893050/

North American Windpower

EPA Holds Public Hearings On Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13243

Environment & Energy Publishing

In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003676

Electric Co-Op Today

Costs Come to Fore in Hearing on EPA Carbon Rule

http://www.ect.coop/regulatory-watch/environmental-regulation/costs-come-to-fore-in-hearing-on-epa-carbon-rule/72305

Politico

Inside the EPA climate rule hearings — FERC weighs in on EPA rules — U.S., EU to toughen Russian sanctions — House takes up ESA bill

http://www.politico.com/morningenergy/0714/morningenergy14807.html

The Coal Valley News

Advocates to speak at EPA hearing in Pittsburgh

http://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/business/50085073/Advocates-to-speak-at-EPA-hearing-in-Pittsburgh#.U9flt_ldXOE

KDVR (Fox)

I'm Too Hot Campaign

http://kdvr.com/2014/07/29/im-too-hot-campaign/

KGWN (CBS)

Here is the latest Wyoming news from The Associated Press

http://www.kgwn.tv/news/cbs/headlines/Wyoming-Headlines-269033971.html

Michigan Radio

EPA holding public hearings on Clean Power Plan

http://michiganradio.org/post/epa-holding-public-hearings-clean-power-plan

The Equation

Pennsylvania and the Clean Power Plan

http://blog.ucsusa.org/pennsylvania-and-the-clean-power-plan-603

The Plain Dealer

Obama administration defends clean air proposal as public hearings begin

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/07/obama_administration_defends_c.html

Prarie Public Broadcasting

Power companies still have questions and concerns about new EPA carbon rules

http://news.prairiepublic.org/post/power-companies-still-have-questions-and-concerns-about-new-epa-carbon-rules

GPB

EPA Holds 'Clean Power Plan' Hearings in Atlanta

http://www.gpb.org/news/2014/07/29/epa-holds-%E2%80%98clean-power-plan%E2%80%99-hearings-in-atlanta

Public News Service

EPA to Get an Earful on Clean Air

http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-07-29/climate-change-air-quality/epa-to-get-an-earful-on-clean-air/a40822-1

Examiner

Hearings begin in four cities for proposed EPA clean power plan

http://www.examiner.com/article/hearings-begin-four-cities-for-proposed-epa-clean-power-plan

Concord Monitor

Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12930005-95/concord-hearing-gives-the-public-a-chance-to-comment-on-epa-clean-power-plan

Winston-Salem Journal

EPA seeks public comments on rules linked to climate change

http://www.journalnow.com/news/nation_world/epa-seeks-public-comments-on-rules-linked-to-climate-change/article_e0267828-16ca-11e4-a1d3-0017a43b2370.html

Tribune-Review

EPA hearings to bring coal debate to Pittsburgh streets

http://triblive.com/business/headlines/6517950-74/coal-epa-rules#ixzz38sre1vP0

Targeted News Service

Big Polluters Cry Wolf Over EPA Plan to Fight Climate Change and Protect Human Health

http://targetednews.com/display_story.php?s_id=1170345

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

Groups Prep for EPA Clean Power Plan Hearing

http://wvpublic.org/post/groups-prep-epa-clean-power-plan-hearing

Sustainablog

Clean Power Plan Needs Your Testimony

http://sustainablog.org/2014/07/clean-power-plan-needs-testimony/

The New Republic

The Coal Industry Has Been Fear-Mongering for 40 Years Now

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118865/pro-coal-ads-show-industry-has-been-predicting-doom-40-years

Charleston Daily Mail

Sold-out crowds await EPA at carbon-cutting rules hearings
http://www.charlestondailymail.com/article/20140728/ARTICLE/140729283/1280#sthash.1owUF6dJ.d

Power Magazine

Preview of Denver's Public Hearing on the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.powermag.com/preview-of-denvers-public-hearing-on-the-epas-proposed-clean-power-plan/

Charleston Gazette

As public hearings begin, EPA again defends greenhouse proposal
http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140728/GZ01/140729286/1101#sthash.uIVY7tav.dpuf

The Hill

OVERNIGHT ENERGY: The climate rule blitz

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/213563-overnight-energy-the-climate-rule-blitz

Chem.info

Closing The Largest Coal Plant In The West

http://www.chem.info/news/2014/07/closing-largest-coal-plant-west

Governing

EPA Opens Public Hearings on Power Plant Rules

http://www.governing.com/topics/energy-env/gov-epa-opens-public-hearings-on-power-plant-rules.html

Cherokee County Herald

EPA getting mixed signals from public meetings

http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/associated_press/news/national/epa-getting-mixed-signals-from-public-meetings/article_50ae570c-174b-11e4-8269-001a4bcf6878.html

LiveScience.com

We Want Clean Power — Fight for It (Op-Ed)

http://www.livescience.com/47081-fighting-for-cleaner-energy.html

Phoenix Business Journal

Environmentalists unhappy, could sue over EPA's pollution deal with Arizona power plant

http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2014/07/29/environmentalists-unhappy-could-sue-over-epa-s.html

Morning Times

Clean air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://www.morning-times.com/national_news/article_154a601e-b10d-5bae-a61f-bf7e6d9fca4b.html

Ravalli Republic

Health professionals urge EPA to finalize carbon cleanup rules

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/opinion/columnists/article_14591eb6-c96c-5b84-8b52-76707011a9ac.html

Great Falls Tribune

EPA holding hearings on Obama's plan to cut emissions

http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/epa-holding-hearings-obamas-plan-cut-emissions/13311415/

Arizona Daily Star

EPA approves modified Navajo power plant cleanup plan

http://tucson.com/business/national-and-international/epa-approves-modified-navajo-power-plant-cleanup-plan/article_6a4c8058-1a7f-5f88-8c08-9c5c1d2b1c77.html

Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

The EPA's proposed carbon rule would reduce air pollution

http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2014/07/29/The-EPA-s-proposed-carbon-rule-would-reduce-air-pollution/stories/201407290096#ixzz38sy5k6al

The Christian Science Review

White House climate change report: Act now, or pay later

http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0729/White-House-climate-change-report-Act-now-or-pay-later

Peach Pundit

Rep. Lynne Riley: EPA's Proposed Carbon Regulations Will Harm Georgia's Economy

http://www.peachpundit.com/2014/07/29/rep-lynne-riley-epas-proposed-carbon-regulations-will-harm-georgias-economy/

Roll-Call

'Good Ideas' Are Point of EPA Carbon Emissions Hearings, McCarthy Says

http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/epa-carbon-emissions-rule-hearings-mccarthy/?dcz=

ThinkProgress

Fossil Fuel-Funded Groups Organizing Public Rallies Against New EPA Climate Rule

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/28/3464833/epa-hearings-fossil-fuel-public-rallies/

Caribbean Life

EPA's Carbon Pollution Rules - Good for business, good for the economy

http://www.caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2014/7/2014_07_22_oped_carbon_pollution.html

Environmental Expert

Rule aims to help clear air around Grand Canyon

http://www.environmental-expert.com/news/rule-aims-to-help-clear-air-around-grand-canyon-438721

The Augusta Chronicle

Hearing on new Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan rules Tuesday in Atlanta

http://beta.mirror.augusta.com/latest-news/2014-07-28/hearing-new-environmental-protection-agencys-clean-power-plan-rules-tuesday?v=1406580945

WUKY

EPA Hearings Draw Diverse Crowd Of Kentucky Advocates

http://wuky.org/post/epa-hearings-draw-diverse-crowd-kentucky-advocates

To: Stangl, Emily[Stangl.Emily@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 9:12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Media Tracking

Perfect!

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 29, 2014, at 4:55 PM, "Stangl, Emily" <Stangl.Emily@epa.gov> wrote:

All of the articles that I have found before 4 p.m.:

9News

EPA hearing to draw big crowds in Denver

http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/climate-change-epa-hearing/13307887/

The Daily Caller

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sj6Rodt

The Guardian

EPA to hold public hearings on new rules to cut carbon emissions

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/29/epa-hearings-pollution-carbon-emissions

The Tribune

Across US, opponents and supporters call power-plant pollution rules too much or too little

http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/84014de7329e420e8796aac2a475a9cf/US--Climate-Change-EPA

MSN Money

Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20140729&id=17813858

St. Louis Public Radio

Peabody Asks EPA To Withdraw Carbon Emissions Proposal

http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/peabody-asks-epa-withdraw-carbon-emissions-proposal

Craig Daily Press

EPA hearings prompt Craig and Steamboat constituents to rally for coal in Denver Tuesday

http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2014/jul/29/craig-and-steamboat-coal-constituents-head-denver-/

Star News Online

Activists, officials, residents gather in support of Clean Power Plan

http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20140729/ARTICLES/140729610?Title=Activists-officials-residents-gather-in-support-of-Clean-Power-Plan

Fetch Your News

EPA Hearings To be Held Today and Tomorrow in Atlanta-Political Titans to Hold Separate Rallies

http://fannin.fetchyournews.com/archives/6224-EPA-Hearings-To-be-Held-Today-and-Tomorrow-in-Atlanta-Political-Titans-to-Hold-Separate-Rallies.html

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html

Bloomberg BNA

The Top Five Bloomberg BNA Energy and Climate Report Stories for the Week Ending July 25

http://www.bna.com/top-five-bloomberg-b17179893050/

North American Windpower

EPA Holds Public Hearings On Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13243

Environment & Energy Publishing

In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003676

Electric Co-Op Today

Costs Come to Fore in Hearing on EPA Carbon Rule

http://www.ect.coop/regulatory-watch/environmental-regulation/costs-come-to-fore-in-hearing-on-epa-carbon-rule/72305

Politico

Inside the EPA climate rule hearings — FERC weighs in on EPA rules — U.S., EU to toughen Russian sanctions — House takes up ESA bill

http://www.politico.com/morningenergy/0714/morningenergy14807.html

The Coal Valley News

Advocates to speak at EPA hearing in Pittsburgh

http://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/business/50085073/Advocates-to-speak-at-EPA-hearing-in-Pittsburgh#.U9flt_ldXOE

KDVR (Fox)

I'm Too Hot Campaign

http://kdvr.com/2014/07/29/im-too-hot-campaign/

KGWN (CBS)

Here is the latest Wyoming news from The Associated Press

http://www.kgwn.tv/news/cbs/headlines/Wyoming-Headlines-269033971.html

Michigan Radio

EPA holding public hearings on Clean Power Plan

http://michiganradio.org/post/epa-holding-public-hearings-clean-power-plan

The Equation

Pennsylvania and the Clean Power Plan

http://blog.ucsusa.org/pennsylvania-and-the-clean-power-plan-603

The Plain Dealer

Obama administration defends clean air proposal as public hearings begin

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/07/obama_administration_defends_c.html

Prarie Public Broadcasting

Power companies still have questions and concerns about new EPA carbon rules

http://news.prairiepublic.org/post/power-companies-still-have-questions-and-concerns-about-new-epa-carbon-rules

GPB

EPA Holds 'Clean Power Plan' Hearings in Atlanta

http://www.gpb.org/news/2014/07/29/epa-holds-%E2%80%98clean-power-plan%E2%80%99-hearings-in-atlanta

Public News Service

EPA to Get an Earful on Clean Air

http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-07-29/climate-change-air-quality/epa-to-get-an-earful-on-clean-air/a40822-1

Examiner

Hearings begin in four cities for proposed EPA clean power plan

http://www.examiner.com/article/hearings-begin-four-cities-for-proposed-epa-clean-power-plan

Concord Monitor

Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12930005-95/concord-hearing-gives-the-public-a-chance-to-comment-on-epa-clean-power-plan

Winston-Salem Journal

EPA seeks public comments on rules linked to climate change

http://www.journalnow.com/news/nation_world/epa-seeks-public-comments-on-rules-linked-to-climate-change/article_e0267828-16ca-11e4-a1d3-0017a43b2370.html

Tribune-Review

EPA hearings to bring coal debate to Pittsburgh streets

http://triblive.com/business/headlines/6517950-74/coal-epa-rules#ixzz38sre1vP0

Targeted News Service

Big Polluters Cry Wolf Over EPA Plan to Fight Climate Change and Protect Human Health

http://targetednews.com/display_story.php?s_id=1170345

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

Groups Prep for EPA Clean Power Plan Hearing

http://wvpublic.org/post/groups-prep-epa-clean-power-plan-hearing

Sustainablog

Clean Power Plan Needs Your Testimony

http://sustainablog.org/2014/07/clean-power-plan-needs-testimony/

The New Republic

The Coal Industry Has Been Fear-Mongering for 40 Years Now

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118865/pro-coal-ads-show-industry-has-been-predicting-doom-40-years

Charleston Daily Mail

Sold-out crowds await EPA at carbon-cutting rules hearings
http://www.charlestondailymail.com/article/20140728/ARTICLE/140729283/1280#sthash.1owUF6dJ.d

Power Magazine

Preview of Denver's Public Hearing on the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.powermag.com/preview-of-denvers-public-hearing-on-the-epas-proposed-clean-power-plan/

Charleston Gazette

As public hearings begin, EPA again defends greenhouse proposal
http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140728/GZ01/140729286/1101#sthash.uIVY7tav.dpuf

The Hill

OVERNIGHT ENERGY: The climate rule blitz

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/213563-overnight-energy-the-climate-rule-blitz

Chem.info

Closing The Largest Coal Plant In The West

http://www.chem.info/news/2014/07/closing-largest-coal-plant-west

Governing

EPA Opens Public Hearings on Power Plant Rules

http://www.governing.com/topics/energy-env/gov-epa-opens-public-hearings-on-power-plant-rules.html

Cherokee County Herald

EPA getting mixed signals from public meetings

http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/associated_press/news/national/epa-getting-mixed-signals-from-public-meetings/article_50ae570c-174b-11e4-8269-001a4bcf6878.html

LiveScience.com

We Want Clean Power — Fight for It (Op-Ed)

http://www.livescience.com/47081-fighting-for-cleaner-energy.html

Phoenix Business Journal

Environmentalists unhappy, could sue over EPA's pollution deal with Arizona power plant

http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2014/07/29/environmentalists-unhappy-could-sue-over-epa-s.html

Morning Times

Clean air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://www.morning-times.com/national_news/article_154a601e-b10d-5bae-a61f-bf7e6d9fca4b.html

Ravalli Republic

Health professionals urge EPA to finalize carbon cleanup rules

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/opinion/columnists/article_14591eb6-c96c-5b84-8b52-76707011a9ac.html

Great Falls Tribune

EPA holding hearings on Obama's plan to cut emissions

http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/epa-holding-hearings-obamas-plan-cut-emissions/13311415/

Arizona Daily Star

EPA approves modified Navajo power plant cleanup plan

http://tucson.com/business/national-and-international/epa-approves-modified-navajo-power-plant-cleanup-plan/article_6a4c8058-1a7f-5f88-8c08-9c5c1d2b1c77.html

Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

The EPA's proposed carbon rule would reduce air pollution

http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2014/07/29/The-EPA-s-proposed-carbon-rule-would-reduce-air-pollution/stories/201407290096#ixzz38sy5k6al

The Christian Science Review

White House climate change report: Act now, or pay later

http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0729/White-House-climate-change-report-Act-now-or-pay-later

Peach Pundit

Rep. Lynne Riley: EPA's Proposed Carbon Regulations Will Harm Georgia's Economy

http://www.peachpundit.com/2014/07/29/rep-lynne-riley-epas-proposed-carbon-regulations-will-harm-georgias-economy/

Roll-Call

'Good Ideas' Are Point of EPA Carbon Emissions Hearings, McCarthy Says

http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/epa-carbon-emissions-rule-hearings-mccarthy/?dcz=

ThinkProgress

Fossil Fuel-Funded Groups Organizing Public Rallies Against New EPA Climate Rule

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/28/3464833/epa-hearings-fossil-fuel-public-rallies/

Caribbean Life

EPA's Carbon Pollution Rules - Good for business, good for the economy

http://www.caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2014/7/2014_07_22_oped_carbon_pollution.html

Environmental Expert

Rule aims to help clear air around Grand Canyon

http://www.environmental-expert.com/news/rule-aims-to-help-clear-air-around-grand-canyon-438721

The Augusta Chronicle

Hearing on new Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan rules Tuesday in Atlanta

http://beta.mirror.augusta.com/latest-news/2014-07-28/hearing-new-environmental-protection-agencys-clean-power-plan-rules-tuesday?v=1406580945

WUKY

EPA Hearings Draw Diverse Crowd Of Kentucky Advocates

http://wuky.org/post/epa-hearings-draw-diverse-crowd-kentucky-advocates

To: mboshnack@thedailystar.com[mboshnack@thedailystar.com]
Cc: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:33:39 PM
Subject: Re: EPA Response

Also, the list of speakers that was posted was first come first serve and there are still slots available for people to speak. They can register at the hearing location on Thursday and Friday.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 29, 2014, at 3:46 PM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Information regarding dates and registration for the Proposed Clean Power Plan public hearings were posted in the Federal Register at:http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602-2373 and on EPA's website at:www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan Individuals wishing to pre-register to present oral testimony at the hearings could either submit an online form through EPA's website, or call or email EPA's designated contact listed in the Federal Register notice. Any interested party is allowed to register to speak at a public hearing and is given five minutes to present their testimony. Registration is not required to attend and listen to testimony but, given the large number of expected attendees, space will be available first-come, first-serve.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: mboshnack@thedailystar.com[mboshnack@thedailystar.com]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:46:24 PM
Subject: EPA Response

Information regarding dates and registration for the Proposed Clean Power Plan public hearings were posted in the Federal Register at:http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602-2373 and on EPA's website at:www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan Individuals wishing to pre-register to present oral testimony at the hearings could either submit an online form through EPA's website, or call or email EPA's designated contact listed in the Federal Register notice. Any interested party is allowed to register to speak at a public hearing and is given five minutes to present their testimony. Registration is not required to attend and listen to testimony but, given the large number of expected attendees, space will be available first-come, first-serve.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Dennis, Allison[Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 6:03:24 PM
Subject: Re: Article in Daily Caller saying we're barring opposition groups

Ridiculous.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 29, 2014, at 2:02 PM, "Dennis, Allison" <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Levy, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:57 PM
To: Allen, Laura; Cashin, Mary; Davis, Alison; Dennis, Allison; Drinkard, Andrea; Dwyer, Madeleine; graves, john; Johnson, Alisha; Jung, Gyeongbae; Lee, Monica; Lincoln, Larry; Luo, Zeya; McMichael, Nate; Orquina, Jessica; Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; schafer, joan; Seneca, Roy; Smith, Roxanne; White, Terri-A
Subject: Article in Daily Caller saying we're barring opposition groups

Daily Caller article posted at 1:19 today.

@_donaldson (RightWired) tweeted it: Fascist **@EPA** Bars Some Opposition Groups From Carbon Hearings http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/ … via **@dailycaller**

We won't reply to this tweet.

Here's the whole article:

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/

The Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its week of field hearings on its Clean Power Plan. Thousands have signed up to speak, but others got notices from the EPA saying they would not get a time slot to testify before agency officials.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The plan has been backed by environmental groups and Democrats, but opposed by businesses and Republicans who say it will raise energy costs and force the shutdown of coal plants.

To get feedback on the rule, the agency announced four public field hearings across the country this week. The hearings will take place at federal buildings in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

Around 1,600 people have signed up to speak, but not everyone was allowed to have time to testify before agency officials. Some groups critical of the EPA's agenda were not able to secure speaking slots despite signing up early.

Matthew Kandrach was surprised to find an email from the EPA eight days after he submitted a request for a time slot to speak. Kandrach is vice president at the free-market group the 60 Plus Association, which is opposed to the EPA's CPP because it would raise power prices for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

"This is literally a life or death situation for seniors when they have to choose between food, medication and energy," Kandrach told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Kandrach signed up for on July 9 for his group to speak at hearings in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. After signing up for the hearing, he got no confirmation email, but was simply directed to a landing page which thanked him for his submission. With no confirmation email sent, the 60 Plus Association believed they had secured a time to speak.

But eight days later, Kandrach got a confusing email (which went into his spam folder) from an EPA official saying no time slots were left open to speak at the hearing in Atlanta. The EPA official said they would be able to attend the Atlanta hearing and could even request to have

speaking time, but there was no guarantee such a request would be granted.

"Once you sign up why wouldn't you get an instant response?" Kandrach asked TheDCNF. "Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up."

"Why didn't they do even more sign-ups if they were too overwhelmed?" Kandrach added.

<image001.jpg>8 Celebs Who Have Severe IllnessesPressroomVIP

<image002.jpg>15 Good Looking Celebrities Who Destroyed Themselv…SheBudgets

<image003.jpg>Who Knew These 20 Male Mega Stars Were So Small?POPnHOP

<image004.jpg>Top 10 Cancer Causing Foods You Eat Every DayNaturalON

by Taboola

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The free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute encountered a similar problem. It too signed up to speak on the record at the hearing in Washington, D.C., only to receive an email about two weeks later saying it would not get a speaking time slot.

"We signed up very shortly after we had the ability to do so," CEI senior fellow William Yeatman told TheDCNF. "Ten to thirteen days later, we were told all the time slots were full and they could not accommodate us."

"I'm very disappointed," Yeatman added. "I thought we signed up early enough to get a spot."

TheDCNF was also told by sources that the National Black Chamber of Commerce was not able to secure a speaking slot for at least one of the EPA hearings, but the group did not immediately respond to our request for comment. NBCC has warned that EPA's carbon emissions cuts would raise prices, disproportionately harm minority businesses and communities.

"For low-income Americans, too many of whom are African-American, this rule could also be extremely harmful," NBCC Harry Ashford wrote in the Hill newspaper. "With energy costs rising at a pace greater than the average family income, families, especially low-income families, are shouldering an enormous burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing."

"Many groups and individuals who hoped to provide their input at this week's public hearings were not even able to secure a speaking slot, and the high demand for input, and growing chorus of opposition, reinforces the need to expand the public comment period and hold more hearings across the country, especially in areas most affected by these overreaching regulations," said Laura Sheehan, spokeswoman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

"Contrary to what you have heard, we're working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak," an EPA spokesman told TheDCNF. "We expect to hear from about 1,600 people over the course of the week."

The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states "must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held." Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

"This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents') attendance now virtually impossible," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren't likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

Even environmentalist were shocked by the agency's stringent ID requirements. But the EPA has said it would work to make sure everyone who wanted to see the hearing was able to.

"We were pretty taken aback by it," Alex DeSha, an organizer for the Sierra Club in eastern Kentucky, told E&E News. "A lot of people don't know that this is even a thing."

"It's 200 bucks to get a passport expedited," DeSha added. "It's just one more step that will disenfranchise people from engaging in the public process."

The coal industry and others have also criticized the EPA for the location of the public hearings — in space-restricted locations far away from coal country.

"It seems like there's been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage," Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

Read more: http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38shZscKb

Jeffrey Levy
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EPA's blog: http://blog.epa.gov/blog | Twitter: http://twitter.com/epa | Facebook: http://facebook.com/epa

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Capece, Brandon
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 7:50:30 PM
Subject: CPP Hearing Article - The Register Citizen

The Register Citizen – "Faith leaders testify in support of EPA's Clean Power Plan"

WASHINGTON >> More than two dozen faith leaders rallied at public hearings hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency to testify in support of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan to cut greenhouse gases.

The plan was proposed June 2 and is designed to cut carbon pollution from power plants as part of the White House's Climate Action Plan. The plan aims to cut carbon pollution by 30 percent by 2030.

In addition to the public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday (July 29-30) in Washington, the EPA held similar meetings this week in Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

The Rev. Richard Cizik, a longtime evangelical environmental activist, and other faith leaders see the Clean Power Plan as the first step toward a moral and comprehensive response to climate change.

Testimonies were coordinated by three groups: Creation Justice Ministries, the Washington-area chapter of Interfaith Power and Light and the progressive evangelical group Sojourners.

As the hearings kicked off Tuesday, activists met outside the EPA for a multifaith blessing. Joelle Novey, director of IPL's Washington-area chapter, led the group in singing "Ma nora hamakom hazeh," Hebrew for "How awesome is this place!"

The blessing ended with a prayer for the "process and for those providing witnesses to the importance of the EPA's rulemaking."

Cizik, president of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good and a former Washington director for the National Association of Evangelicals, spoke about the effects pollution has had on his family. His son, John, was diagnosed with asthma seven years ago.

“On one occasion, before we really understood what was happening, he woke up in the morning unable to breathe,” Cizik said. “It’s the kind of frightening experience a parent never forgets.”

Since then, Cizik has worked to understand the effects of climate change that he says caused his son’s asthma attack. He said regulating power plants and the EPA’s Clean Energy Plan are essential for reducing the kinds of pollution that most scientists blame for climate change.

“I have been called by God to speak out on these issues and believe as an evangelical Christian that we must be stewards of God’s creation,” Cizik said. “And it seems abundantly clear to me that the EPA’s Clean Energy Plan is a much-needed tool for delivering on this duty.”

In addition to Cizik, various governors, environmental organizations and the public spoke in support of the Clean Power Plan.

Ashley Goff, minister for spiritual formation at Church of the Pilgrims, a Presbyterian congregation in Washington, talked about her church’s “Sacred Greens” urban garden.

She said that on Sundays, the garden is filled with hungry homeless people harvesting vegetables, just one way her church is taking care of its patch of the Earth. The EPA’s role, she said, is to regulate and care for the rest of the country.

She asked the EPA for a long-term vision, because, she said, a short-term vision won’t provide the planet with overall well-being.

While support for environmental protection runs deep in the religious community, not everyone agrees with the White House’s proposed rules. Scotty Dingess, pastor of West Logan Church of God in West Logan, W.V., opposes the EPA’s Clean Power Plan.

He said there hasn’t been any change to the environment near his church but people have begun to lose jobs. There are already regulations in place that control the local coal mining industry, Dingess said.

He added that people come from all over to go on the local ATV trails, hunt, fish and float down the area’s rivers and streams. Coal mining “affects nothing as far as our atmosphere,” said Dingess, who did not

attend the Washington hearings.

Cizik asked skeptics of the EPA's plan to listen to or read the testimonies from faith leaders such as Goff.

He said many opponents are unaware or are in denial about climate change, and he is afraid that could have a lasting impact. He said he looks to a line from the Gospel of Mark, "Master, let me receive my sight," as a prayer for this issue. "The answer to this prayer would be to pay attention, to become aware, to be mindful, to develop a certain kind of consciousness about the real impacts of carbon pollution," Cizik said.

http://www.registercitizen.com/lifestyle/20140731/faith-leaders-testify-in-support-of-epas-clean-power-plan

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Capece, Brandon
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:11:14 PM
Subject: RE: CPP Hearing Stories

Will do!

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:11 AM
To: Capece, Brandon
Subject: Fwd: CPP Hearing Stories

Perfect! Please continue checking throughout the day.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations

Desk: 202.564.7873

Cell: 202.236.2426

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Capece, Brandon" <Capece.Brandon@epa.gov>
Date: July 31, 2014 at 11:09:35 AM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: CPP Hearing Stories

This seems to be the only thing:

Climate Progress – "At EPA Hearing, Religious Leaders Call Carbon Pollution 'An Affront To God'"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Speaking to three administrators for the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, David Kepley, an elder and deacon at the Providence Presbyterian Church, quoted

Leviticus.

“God said ‘the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants,’” he said. “‘Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.’”

To be wasteful of the land’s bounty … is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God.

The verses, Kepley said, allude to several themes. For one, God has encouraged us not just to draw sustenance from the land, but to replenish it — to act as stewards of Creation. For another, the verses compare humans to “renters” in God’s house, meaning we can’t just trash God’s house with unmitigated pollution.

“To me this means that to be wasteful of the land’s bounty or to despoil it with substances that are harmful to people or other life forms is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God,” Kepley said. “In my view, the EPA has identified one of those areas where we humans have ignored our role as good stewards of the Creation.”

Kepley was just one of at least 28 religious leaders who urged the EPA at two D.C. hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday not to weaken — and at times to strengthen — its proposed regulations on carbon emissions from coal plants. The proposed rule represents the Obama Administration’s most ambitious move yet to combat one of the main drivers behind climate change.

The rule has drawn strong criticism from Republicans, the party that religious groups — particularly Christians — have often been associated with. But on Tuesday and Wednesday, leaders from Presbyterian, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Quaker, and Baptist congregations spoke out in strong support of the rule, with most speakers calling it a moral obligation to God. Leaders from Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Baha’i groups also testified in support of the rule.

Before man was asked to love his neighbor, love God, or care for the least of these, he was asked to love the earth.

“In the religious communities with which I work, people are heart-sick about the role of fossil fuels in producing the heat-trapping gases that are causing climate change,” said Joelle Novey, the director of Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit that engages religious communities on climate issues. “They are working to reduce their electricity use in their sanctuaries and at home. They are climbing up on ladders to change to more efficient lightbulbs. They are working together to support clean energy through their energy bills.”

Despite their own personal efforts, though, some religious leaders recognize that a large portion of greenhouse gases emitted in the United States come from coal plants, representing 24.5 percent of total U.S. emissions. And to them, being part of such a large contribution to climate change — the adverse effects of which primary impact low-income communities and third world countries — is morally unacceptable.

“Climate change disproportionately impacts the very people who we are called to serve,” said Patricia Bruckbauer, an eco-justice fellow at Creation Justice Ministries. “Those who have consistently contributed the least to our changing climate are generally the ones who suffer the most … low-income communities, communities of color, the elderly and children.”

Every religious group that testified on Wednesday afternoon in Washington D.C. spoke out in support of the EPA rule regulating coal. But at similar hearings in Alabama on Tuesday, state government officials argued the opposite — saying that the regulations “flouted the Almighty’s will by regulating a God-given resource,” according to a Huffington Post report.

“Who has the right to take what God’s given a state?” Alabama Public Service Commission member-elect Chip Beeker reportedly said.

But Christians who testified Wednesday in support of the rules widely cited the second chapter of Genesis, in which the first thing that God asks man to do is care for and maintain the earth.

“Before man was asked to love his neighbor, love God, or care for the least of these, he was asked to love the earth,” said Rev. Marjani Dele, the minister of missions at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. “You could say that it was a type of first commandment.”

We view clean air as a gift from God.

It may be surprising for some to see religious groups — particularly Christians who are often politically associated with conservatives — come out in support of what have sometimes been seen as liberal environmental initiatives. But the EPA hearings were far from the first time that religious groups have rallied to fight global warming. Earlier this month, The World Council of Churches — a large umbrella group of churches representing more than half a billion Christians worldwide — announced that it would pull all of its investments in fossil fuels, saying it had determined the investments were no longer ethical.

Pope Francis has also spoken widely about his concern for the environment, most recently telling a group of fellow Catholics that rainforest destruction is a “sin.” The Pope has also made the religious case for tackling climate change, warning a massive crowd in Rome that “if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us.”

At the hearing on Wednesday, Bruckbauer agreed, expressing hope that the coal industry could one day get on board with policies that reduce carbon pollution.

“We view clean air as a gift from god,” she said. “Responding to the injustices of pollution is important to people of faith, and should be important to industry leaders as well.”

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/31/3466008/epa-coal-rules-religious-leaders-support/

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Capece, Brandon
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:09:35 PM
Subject: CPP Hearing Stories

This seems to be the only thing:

Climate Progress – "At EPA Hearing, Religious Leaders Call Carbon Pollution 'An Affront To God'"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Speaking to three administrators for the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, David Kepley, an elder and deacon at the Providence Presbyterian Church, quoted Leviticus.

"God said 'the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants,'" he said. "'Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.'"

To be wasteful of the land's bounty … is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God.

The verses, Kepley said, allude to several themes. For one, God has encouraged us not just to draw sustenance from the land, but to replenish it — to act as stewards of Creation. For another, the verses compare humans to "renters" in God's house, meaning we can't just trash God's house with unmitigated pollution.

"To me this means that to be wasteful of the land's bounty or to despoil it with substances that are harmful to people or other life forms is not just unproductive, but is an affront to God," Kepley said. "In my view, the EPA has identified one of those areas where we humans have ignored our role as good stewards of the Creation."

Kepley was just one of at least 28 religious leaders who urged the EPA at two D.C. hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday not to weaken — and at times to strengthen — its proposed regulations on carbon emissions from coal plants. The proposed rule represents the Obama Administration's most ambitious move yet to combat one of the main drivers behind climate change.

The rule has drawn strong criticism from Republicans, the party that religious groups — particularly Christians — have often been associated with. But on Tuesday and Wednesday, leaders from Presbyterian, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Quaker, and Baptist congregations spoke out in strong support of the rule, with most speakers calling it a moral obligation to God. Leaders from Jewish,

Hindu, Buddhist, and Baha'i groups also testified in support of the rule.

Before man was asked to love his neighbor, love God, or care for the least of these, he was asked to love the earth.

"In the religious communities with which I work, people are heart-sick about the role of fossil fuels in producing the heat-trapping gases that are causing climate change," said Joelle Novey, the director of Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit that engages religious communities on climate issues. "They are working to reduce their electricity use in their sanctuaries and at home. They are climbing up on ladders to change to more efficient lightbulbs. They are working together to support clean energy through their energy bills."

Despite their own personal efforts, though, some religious leaders recognize that a large portion of greenhouse gases emitted in the United States come from coal plants, representing 24.5 percent of total U.S. emissions. And to them, being part of such a large contribution to climate change — the adverse effects of which primary impact low-income communities and third world countries — is morally unacceptable.

"Climate change disproportionately impacts the very people who we are called to serve," said Patricia Bruckbauer, an eco-justice fellow at Creation Justice Ministries. "Those who have consistently contributed the least to our changing climate are generally the ones who suffer the most … low-income communities, communities of color, the elderly and children."

Every religious group that testified on Wednesday afternoon in Washington D.C. spoke out in support of the EPA rule regulating coal. But at similar hearings in Alabama on Tuesday, state government officials argued the opposite — saying that the regulations "flouted the Almighty's will by regulating a God-given resource," according to a Huffington Post report.

"Who has the right to take what God's given a state?" Alabama Public Service Commission member-elect Chip Beeker reportedly said.

But Christians who testified Wednesday in support of the rules widely cited the second chapter of Genesis, in which the first thing that God asks man to do is care for and maintain the earth.

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http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/31/3466008/epa-coal-rules-religious-leaders-support/

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Belanger, Matt S
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:02:40 PM
Subject: Re: EPA Hearing

Many thanks

On Jul 31, 2014, at 11:02 AM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Here you go:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-pittsburgh-pa

From: Belanger, Matt S [mailto:MBelanger@hearst.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Jones, Enesta
Subject: Re: EPA Hearing

Do you have a schedule?

On Jul 31, 2014, at 10:58 AM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, Matt.

From: Belanger, Matt S [mailto:MBelanger@hearst.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Jones, Enesta
Subject: EPA Hearing

Good morning--

Are TV news cameras allowed into today's hearing? I'm the reporter assigned to cover it for WTAE Pittsburgh.

Thanks,
Matt

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Adams, Chris
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 12:19:22 PM
Subject: Re: Speakers for hearing

Any idea how long that will take? Days? Weeks?
Chris

On Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 8:05 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Chris,
There will be transcripts.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 31, 2014, at 8:04 AM, "Adams, Chris" <cadams@mcclatchydc.com> wrote:

Enesta:
Thanks for the link to power-plan speakers.
On these hearings: Will there be archived video of them available? Or written transcripts?

Thanks,
Chris Adams
McClatchy Washington Bureau
202-383-6071

On Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 2:13 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-washington-dc

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations

Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

--

Chris Adams
National Correspondent
McClatchy Washington Bureau
700 12th St. N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005-3994
202-383-6071

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To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Adams, Chris
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 12:04:14 PM
Subject: Re: Speakers for hearing

Enesta:
Thanks for the link to power-plan speakers.
On these hearings: Will there be archived video of them available? Or written transcripts?

Thanks,
Chris Adams
McClatchy Washington Bureau
202-383-6071

On Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 2:13 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule-washington-dc

Enesta Jones
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McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS: The Miami Herald * The Sacramento Bee * Kansas City Star * Fort Worth Star-Telegram * Raleigh News & Observer * The Charlotte Observer * The (Tacoma) News Tribune * The Fresno Bee * The Modesto Bee * Merced Sun-Star * Tri-City Herald * Belleville News Democrat * The (Biloxi) Sun Herald * Bradenton Herald * The (Columbia) State * Columbus Ledger-Enquirer * Lexington Herald Leader * The Macon Telegraph * el Nuevo Herald * The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News * The (San Luis Obispo) Tribune * (State College) Centre Daily Times * The Wichita Eagle * The Beaufort Gazette * The (Rock Hill) Herald * The (Bluffton) Island Packet * The (Olympia) Olympian * The Bellingham Herald

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Enesta
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 9:48:20 PM

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ERISA Litigation Tracker

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Government Employee Relations Report

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HR Corporate Suite III

HR Corporate Suite IV

HR Decision Support Network

HR Small Business Corporate Suite I

HR & Payroll Resource Center

HR Small Business Corporate Suite II

HR Small Business Corporate Suite III

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Labor Relations Week

Life Sciences Law & Industry Report

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Media Law Reporter

Medical Devices Law & Industry Report

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Medicare Drug Watch

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MSDS Management

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Occupational Safety & Health Reporter

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TaxCore

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Transfer Pricing Forum

Transfer Pricing International Journal

Transportation/Environment Alert

Transportation Watch

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Union Labor Report Newsletter

Water Law & Policy Monitor

White Collar Crime Report

Workplace Immigration Report

Workplace Law Report

World Communications Regulation Report

World Data Protection Report

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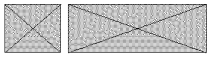
World Securities Law Report

WTO Reporter



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Power Plant Rule Would Threaten Economy With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says

Wednesday, July 30, 2014
from Daily Environment Report™

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By Andrew Childers

July 29 — An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would drive up electricity costs and cause significant job losses without providing a tangible climate benefit, coal-reliant states and industry groups said at a public hearing July 29.

"The U.S. cannot go it alone and expect that our actions will have a meaningful climate impact in a world economy that is using more coal and more fossil fuels every day," Paul Cicio, president of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said a hearing in Washington.

Utilities and industry groups called on the EPA to conduct further economic analysis of its proposal before issuing a final rule. Environmental groups largely supported the proposal but pushed the EPA to seek greater emissions reductions from the power sector through increased investments in renewable generation and demand reduction programs.

"Protecting our children from carbon pollution is your legal duty and our moral obligation," Greg Dotson, vice president for energy policy at the Center for American Progress, said.

The EPA's proposed standards would set a unique carbon dioxide emissions rate for the power sector in each state (RIN 2060-AR33). The states would administer the standards under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. The EPA anticipates its proposal could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the existing fleet of power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 at a cost to the power industry of $5.4 billion to $8.8 billion in 2030 (79 Fed. Reg. 34,959).

Job Losses Feared

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pledged to continue to oppose the EPA's proposed rule in Congress and criticized the agency's failure to hold public listening sessions on the rule in coal-producing states.

“By not coming to West Virginia, to Kentucky, to the coal-producing and coal-consuming states, you send a message that our views and our experiences don't matter,” she said. “To have the federal government refuse to listen to that segment is frustrating and demoralizing for us.”

The EPA also accepted public comments at hearings in Atlanta and Denver July 29.

It will continue to accept comments July 30 during public hearings in Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C., and July 31 and Aug. 1 in Pittsburgh.

Coal proponents said the emissions rates the EPA has proposed would largely preclude states from relying on coal-fired generation. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said the proposal would allow coal-dependent states to continue to rely on coal-fired generation.

Capito predicted the EPA's proposed rule could increase electricity prices and cause significant job losses in West Virginia, which produces 95 percent of its electricity from coal.

Unions also were concerned about potential job losses as coal-fired power plants retire in response to the EPA's proposed carbon dioxide standards as well as other emissions limits for power plants.

Bruce Burton, representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said 40 percent of the existing coal power plant fleet is expected to retire as result of the EPA's carbon dioxide proposal and existing mercury and air toxics standards (MATS). That equates to 400,000 lost jobs, he said.

“Given the IBEW's experience with MATS, those numbers could be much worse,” Burton said.

Additional Analysis Needed

Shifting electricity generation from coal to natural gas presents reliability concerns because natural gas cannot be stockpiled, Cicio said. Rising electricity prices could cause more manufacturers to offshore their operations, which could actually increase emissions, he said. Cicio said the EPA needs to consider this “carbon leakage” when it tallies the benefits of its

proposal.

“We need to be honest with each other. There will be jobs created in the renewable energy sector and other sectors, but there will be job losses in other sectors,” Jeffrey Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell & Giuliani LLP who represents the power industry, said on behalf of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council.

Mary Martin, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the EPA has not sufficiently evaluated what impacts its proposal would have on small businesses. She called on the EPA to convene a small business review panel under the Regulatory Flexibility Act and further evaluate the impact its regulations have on employment as required by Section 321 of the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Groups Want Stronger Rule

Environmental groups supported the EPA's proposal but argued the agency could do more to encourage the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Industry groups historically have overestimated the cost of complying with air pollution regulations, environmental groups said.

“Industry has certainly done their best to scare the public,” Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said. “They do it every time we try to make the air cleaner. Every time their predictions have been flat wrong.”

Despite their protests, environmental groups said power plants have been able to deliver cost-effective emissions reductions under EPA regulations in the past.

“Electric utilities are typically sophisticated entities that can innovate and respond to policy direction,” Dotson of the Center for American Progress said.

States Praise Outreach

State air pollution regulators also supported the EPA's proposal but asked the agency to extend the compliance deadline for states that may need to take legislative action to comply.

Additionally, state regulators said at the hearing in Atlanta July 29 that the EPA's proposed rule may not give states that already have taken steps to address greenhouse gas emissions enough credit for those measures.

At the hearing in Denver July 29, speakers also described the impacts climate change is having on the West, including reduced snowpack, hotter fires, bigger floods, and more prolonged droughts.

Praise for State Outreach

At the Washington hearing, Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, praised the EPA for its outreach to states prior to proposing the rule. The rule will

provide state air pollution regulators with the flexibility to develop the compliance plans that best suit their needs.

"EPA not only engaged in discussion, it also listened carefully to what was said," Becker said.

Supreme Court Cited

Opponents of the EPA's proposed rule argued that the U.S. Supreme Court had recently cautioned the EPA about reading its ability to regulate greenhouse gases too broadly.

"When an agency claims to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power to regulate 'a significant portion of the American economy,'*Brown & Williamson*, 529 U. S., at 159, we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a recent opinion that limited the scope of the EPA's greenhouse gas permitting program (*Util. Air Regulatory Grp. v. EPA,* 2014 BL 17297, U.S., No. 12-1146, 6/23/14).

Matt Schlapp, chairman of American Conservative Union, argued the EPA's interpretation of its authority to regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act is overly broad. Instead, he said Congress should take action to address climate change.

"If the goal is to make sound policy, our democratic system is the right system to use, not bureaucratic fiat," he said.

The EPA could actually delay taking action on climate change if its rule is too ambitious and is eventually struck down by the courts as unlawful, Holmstead said.

"The Supreme Court has not given EPA a roving mandate to do whatever it thinks is best," he said.

Democrats Support Proposal

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), who authored a greenhouse gas cap and trade bill in 2009, said Massachusetts already has reduced carbon dioxide emissions from its power plants by 40 percent from 2005 levels as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, demonstrating the EPA's proposal is feasible.

"America must lead. History calls us to reduce greenhouse gases and unleash a clean energy revolution," he said.

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell (D) argued that states can transition to a cleaner electricity generator sector without disrupting the economy, citing his own state's experience.

"We know this in Delaware where we've shifted from one of the dirtiest energy mixes in the nation to one of the cleanest," he said.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) called climate change "a direct assault on rural America" because

warming temperatures already are impacting forestry and fishing jobs in his state.

"If you talk to foresters in Oregon, climate change is not some distant threat. It's happening now," he said.

Other Democrats touted the EPA's estimate the proposal would provide between $55 billion and $93 billion in health benefits in 2030.

"The economic case, I think, is compelling," Rep. Anna Eschoo (D-Calif.) said.

The EPA will accept written comment on the proposed rule until Oct. 16. Comment can be made at http://www.regulations.gov and should reference Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602.

To contact the reporter on this story: Andrew Childers in Washington at achilders@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Larry Pearl in Washington at lpearl@bna.com

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To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Capece, Brandon
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 8:31:43 PM
Subject: CPP Hearing Clips
CPP hearing tracker 7.30.docx

Here are the clips that either talk about the DC hearing or what people said at the DC hearings.

Brandon Capece

Intern, Office of Media Relations (OMR)

(202) 564-9458

capece.brandon@epa.gov

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Stangl, Emily
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:55:41 PM
Subject: Media Tracking

All of the articles that I have found before 4 p.m.:

9News

EPA hearing to draw big crowds in Denver

http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/climate-change-epa-hearing/13307887/

The Daily Caller

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sj6Rodt

The Guardian

EPA to hold public hearings on new rules to cut carbon emissions

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/29/epa-hearings-pollution-carbon-emissions

The Tribune

Across US, opponents and supporters call power-plant pollution rules too much or too little

http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/84014de7329e420e8796aac2a475a9cf/US--Climate-Change-EPA

MSN Money

Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20140729&id=17813858

St. Louis Public Radio

Peabody Asks EPA To Withdraw Carbon Emissions Proposal

http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/peabody-asks-epa-withdraw-carbon-emissions-proposal

Craig Daily Press

EPA hearings prompt Craig and Steamboat constituents to rally for coal in Denver Tuesday

http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2014/jul/29/craig-and-steamboat-coal-constituents-head-denver-/

Star News Online

Activists, officials, residents gather in support of Clean Power Plan

http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20140729/ARTICLES/140729610?Title=Activists-officials-residents-gather-in-support-of-Clean-Power-Plan

Fetch Your News

EPA Hearings To be Held Today and Tomorrow in Atlanta-Political Titans to Hold Separate Rallies

http://fannin.fetchyournews.com/archives/6224-EPA-Hearings-To-be-Held-Today-and-Tomorrow-in-Atlanta-Political-Titans-to-Hold-Separate-Rallies.html

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html

Bloomberg BNA

The Top Five Bloomberg BNA Energy and Climate Report Stories for the Week Ending July 25

http://www.bna.com/top-five-bloomberg-b17179893050/

North American Windpower

EPA Holds Public Hearings On Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13243

Environment & Energy Publishing

In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003676

Electric Co-Op Today

Costs Come to Fore in Hearing on EPA Carbon Rule

http://www.ect.coop/regulatory-watch/environmental-regulation/costs-come-to-fore-in-hearing-on-epa-carbon-rule/72305

Politico

Inside the EPA climate rule hearings — FERC weighs in on EPA rules — U.S., EU to toughen Russian sanctions — House takes up ESA bill

http://www.politico.com/morningenergy/0714/morningenergy14807.html

The Coal Valley News

Advocates to speak at EPA hearing in Pittsburgh

http://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/business/50085073/Advocates-to-speak-at-EPA-hearing-in-Pittsburgh#.U9flt_ldXOE

KDVR (Fox)

I'm Too Hot Campaign

http://kdvr.com/2014/07/29/im-too-hot-campaign/

KGWN (CBS)

Here is the latest Wyoming news from The Associated Press

http://www.kgwn.tv/news/cbs/headlines/Wyoming-Headlines-269033971.html

Michigan Radio

EPA holding public hearings on Clean Power Plan

http://michiganradio.org/post/epa-holding-public-hearings-clean-power-plan

The Equation

Pennsylvania and the Clean Power Plan

http://blog.ucsusa.org/pennsylvania-and-the-clean-power-plan-603

The Plain Dealer

Obama administration defends clean air proposal as public hearings begin

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/07/obama_administration_defends_c.html

Prarie Public Broadcasting

Power companies still have questions and concerns about new EPA carbon rules

http://news.prairiepublic.org/post/power-companies-still-have-questions-and-concerns-about-new-epa-carbon-rules

GPB

EPA Holds 'Clean Power Plan' Hearings in Atlanta

http://www.gpb.org/news/2014/07/29/epa-holds-%E2%80%98clean-power-plan%E2%80%99-hearings-in-atlanta

Public News Service

EPA to Get an Earful on Clean Air

http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-07-29/climate-change-air-quality/epa-to-get-an-earful-on-clean-air/a40822-1

Examiner

Hearings begin in four cities for proposed EPA clean power plan

http://www.examiner.com/article/hearings-begin-four-cities-for-proposed-epa-clean-power-plan

Concord Monitor

Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12930005-95/concord-hearing-gives-the-public-a-chance-to-comment-on-epa-clean-power-plan

Winston-Salem Journal

EPA seeks public comments on rules linked to climate change

http://www.journalnow.com/news/nation_world/epa-seeks-public-comments-on-rules-linked-to-climate-change/article_e0267828-16ca-11e4-a1d3-0017a43b2370.html

Tribune-Review

EPA hearings to bring coal debate to Pittsburgh streets

http://triblive.com/business/headlines/6517950-74/coal-epa-rules#ixzz38sre1vP0

Targeted News Service

Big Polluters Cry Wolf Over EPA Plan to Fight Climate Change and Protect Human Health

http://targetednews.com/display_story.php?s_id=1170345

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

Groups Prep for EPA Clean Power Plan Hearing

http://wvpublic.org/post/groups-prep-epa-clean-power-plan-hearing

Sustainablog

Clean Power Plan Needs Your Testimony

http://sustainablog.org/2014/07/clean-power-plan-needs-testimony/

The New Republic

The Coal Industry Has Been Fear-Mongering for 40 Years Now

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118865/pro-coal-ads-show-industry-has-been-predicting-doom-40-years

Charleston Daily Mail

Sold-out crowds await EPA at carbon-cutting rules hearings
http://www.charlestondailymail.com/article/20140728/ARTICLE/140729283/1280#sthash.1owUF6dJ.d

Power Magazine

Preview of Denver's Public Hearing on the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.powermag.com/preview-of-denvers-public-hearing-on-the-epas-proposed-clean-power-plan/

Charleston Gazette

As public hearings begin, EPA again defends greenhouse proposal
http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140728/GZ01/140729286/1101#sthash.ulVY7tav.dpuf

The Hill

OVERNIGHT ENERGY: The climate rule blitz

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/213563-overnight-energy-the-climate-rule-blitz

Chem.info

Closing The Largest Coal Plant In The West

http://www.chem.info/news/2014/07/closing-largest-coal-plant-west

Governing

EPA Opens Public Hearings on Power Plant Rules

http://www.governing.com/topics/energy-env/gov-epa-opens-public-hearings-on-power-plant-rules.html

Cherokee County Herald

EPA getting mixed signals from public meetings

http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/associated_press/news/national/epa-getting-mixed-signals-from-public-meetings/article_50ae570c-174b-11e4-8269-001a4bcf6878.html

LiveScience.com

We Want Clean Power — Fight for It (Op-Ed)

http://www.livescience.com/47081-fighting-for-cleaner-energy.html

Phoenix Business Journal

Environmentalists unhappy, could sue over EPA's pollution deal with Arizona power plant

http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2014/07/29/environmentalists-unhappy-could-sue-over-epa-s.html

Morning Times

Clean air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://www.morning-times.com/national_news/article_154a601e-b10d-5bae-a61f-bf7e6d9fca4b.html

Ravalli Republic

Health professionals urge EPA to finalize carbon cleanup rules

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/opinion/columnists/article_14591eb6-c96c-5b84-8b52-76707011a9ac.html

Great Falls Tribune

EPA holding hearings on Obama's plan to cut emissions

http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/epa-holding-hearings-obamas-plan-cut-emissions/13311415/

Arizona Daily Star

EPA approves modified Navajo power plant cleanup plan

http://tucson.com/business/national-and-international/epa-approves-modified-navajo-power-plant-cleanup-plan/article_6a4c8058-1a7f-5f88-8c08-9c5c1d2b1c77.html

Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

The EPA's proposed carbon rule would reduce air pollution

http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2014/07/29/The-EPA-s-proposed-carbon-rule-would-reduce-air-pollution/stories/201407290096#ixzz38sy5k6al

The Christian Science Review

White House climate change report: Act now, or pay later

http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0729/White-House-climate-change-report-Act-now-or-pay-later

Peach Pundit

Rep. Lynne Riley: EPA's Proposed Carbon Regulations Will Harm Georgia's Economy

http://www.peachpundit.com/2014/07/29/rep-lynne-riley-epas-proposed-carbon-regulations-will-harm-georgias-economy/

Roll-Call

'Good Ideas' Are Point of EPA Carbon Emissions Hearings, McCarthy Says

http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/epa-carbon-emissions-rule-hearings-mccarthy/?dcz=

ThinkProgress

Fossil Fuel-Funded Groups Organizing Public Rallies Against New EPA Climate Rule

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/28/3464833/epa-hearings-fossil-fuel-public-rallies/

Caribbean Life

EPA's Carbon Pollution Rules - Good for business, good for the economy

http://www.caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2014/7/2014_07_22_oped_carbon_pollution.html

Environmental Expert

Rule aims to help clear air around Grand Canyon

http://www.environmental-expert.com/news/rule-aims-to-help-clear-air-around-grand-canyon-438721

The Augusta Chronicle

Hearing on new Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan rules Tuesday in Atlanta

http://beta.mirror.augusta.com/latest-news/2014-07-28/hearing-new-environmental-protection-agencys-clean-power-plan-rules-tuesday?v=1406580945

WUKY

EPA Hearings Draw Diverse Crowd Of Kentucky Advocates

http://wuky.org/post/epa-hearings-draw-diverse-crowd-kentucky-advocates

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Daniel Yang[dyang@newshour.org]; Murrey Jacobson[MJacobson@newshour.org]; Larisa Epatko[LEpatko@newshour.org]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: Rebecca Jacobson
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 5:05:24 AM
Subject: Re: PBS NewsHour RSVP to EPA Public Hearing tomorrow

Hi Monica,
I'll be covering the hearing in Denver tomorrow, and I'll be bringing a camera. How do I register for the event and when should I arrive?

Thank you,

Rebecca Jacobson
PBS NewsHour
402-578-8309

On Jul 28, 2014, at 6:05 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Monica Lee, copied here, will be of assistance to you.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 28, 2014, at 6:03 PM, "Rebecca Jacobson" <RJacobson@newshour.org> wrote:

Hello Enesta,
I'm planning on covering the hearing in Denver tomorrow. Whom should I contact about credentials?
Thank you,

Rebecca Jacobson
On Jul 28, 2014, at 5:53 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

No additional information needed. Thanks.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 28, 2014, at 5:52 PM, "Daniel Yang" <dyang@newshour.org> wrote:

Ernesta – it turns out that we will be arriving shortly after the hearing starts (around 9:30 or 10am)

Please let us know if you need any additional information from us or would need us to enter in between panels with our camera. Again, we're looking to be there for about 2 hours to shoot sound bites and cutaways.

Thank you,
Daniel Yang
PBS NewsHour

From: Murrey Jacobson
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 4:41 PM
To: Daniel Yang; Jones.enesta@epa.gov
Cc: Larisa Epatko; Rebecca Jacobson
Subject: RE: PBS NewsHour RSVP to EPA Public Hearing tomorrow

And Ernesta, I may send a camera to the Denver hearing too.
Whom should we contact out there about getting that person credentialed in Denver?

Thanks!

Murrey

From: Daniel Yang
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 4:39 PM
To: Jones.enesta@epa.gov
Cc: Larisa Epatko; Murrey Jacobson
Subject: PBS NewsHour RSVP to EPA Public Hearing tomorrow

To Ernesta Jones –

PBS NewsHour would like to send the following camera person to Tuesday's public hearing (copied on this email):

Larisa Epatko
PBS NewsHour
703-216-2802

She will likely be there for only the first 2 hours. Please let us know if you need any additional information from us for entry and if there might be a mult box available to plug into.

July 29 - 30. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. EPA - CLEAN POWER PLAN -- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) holds a public hearing on the proposed Clean Power Plan, providing the opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposed rule before it takes effect. (The Washington DC hearing is one of four taking place around the country; the others are taking place in Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh.) Location: William Jefferson Clinton East Building, Room 1153, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW.

Contacts: Enesta Jones, Jones.enesta@epa.gov, 202-564-7873 Notes: All media who would like to attend the public hearing in Washington, D.C. should RSVP to press@epa.govby 5 p.m.on July 28. Please bring picture identification and allow additional time to enter the buildings and go through security. A large number of attendees are expected, and space will be first-come, first-serve.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Daniel Yang
Assignment Editor
PBS NewsHour
(703) 998-2157 (direct)
(815) 301-3194 (efax)
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dyang@newshour.org

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VT Digger – "Sanders Backs EPA Curbs on Power Plant Pollution"

WASHINGTON – At a news conference on Capitol Hill and in testimony at an Environmental Protection Agency public hearing, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) today strongly endorsed an EPA proposal to limit carbon pollution from power plants to curb global warming.

"If we do not address this crisis, our children and grandchildren will look back on this problem and we will be judged by history in a very negative way," Sanders said.

The EPA hearings here and in Denver and Atlanta were held to take public comment on President Barack Obama's plan to address climate change by cutting carbon-dioxide emissions from electric power plants by 30 percent by 2030.

"We are facing a planetary crisis," said Sanders, a member of the Senate energy and environment committees. "The vast majority of climate scientists agree that our planet is warming, that human activities – especially burning fossil fuels – are the primary cause, and that climate change already is causing devastating damage across the world in the form of floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme weather."

Power plants are the largest source in the United States of harmful carbon pollution, accounting for roughly one-third of all carbon released into the air. Unlike other pollutants, there are now no limits to the amount of carbon pollution that a power plant can release.

The EPA wants to set state-by-state carbon pollution limits. By 2030, the standards are expected to reduce U.S. power plant carbon pollution by 30 percent compared to 2005 levels. That's equal to the annual emissions from more than 150 million cars, or almost two-thirds of the nation's passenger vehicles.

There are no coal-fired power plants in Vermont, but the state will collaborate with New England neighbors in a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Vermont also will continue to be a model for other states by aggressively encouraging the development of alternative energy sources and promoting energy efficiency. In proposing the new national rules, EPA singled out Efficiency Vermont as a model that states should look to in developing their plans.

According to new research for the U.S. National Climate Assessment, the average global temperature has increased by more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit between 1880 and 2012. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures in Vermont and New England have increased at least 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the past 30 years. By 2100, New England could be up to 10 degrees hotter.

"We are facing a pivotal moment in history. We must act quickly and boldly to dramatically cut carbon pollution, transform our energy system, and create good-paying jobs all over this country," Sanders said.

http://vtdigger.org/2014/07/30/sanders-backs-epa-curbs-power-plant-pollution/

Chicago Tribune – "U.S. EPA kicks off hearings on power plant emissions rules"

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Environmental Protection Agency launched public hearings on Tuesday on its proposal to slash carbon emissions from the country's power plants, and interested groups ranging from coal miners to senators made their views known.

The agency is holding two-day hearings in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. and expects oral comments from more than 1,600 people, on top of more than 300,000 written comments already received on the 645-page Clean Power Plan.

The plan, unveiled on June 2, is the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's climate change strategy. It drew cheers from green groups hopeful of a carbon crackdown and accusations by some industry groups of a regulatory attack on coal.

In Pittsburgh, a coal, oil and gas hub, speakers from neighboring states like West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio descended upon the Highmark Stadium to give testimony.

The West Virginia Coal Forum and the United Mine Workers brought busloads of members to Pittsburgh to talk about the havoc the plan would wreak on the state economy.

In Washington, environmental groups rallied outside EPA headquarters. Some held signs and pinwheels in the shape of wind turbines in a show of support for the sweeping proposal.

U.S. Senator Edward Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, spoke at the hearing and later addressed the groups outside, offering harsh words for the EPA's critics.

In Atlanta, state utility regulators warned they would be forced to shutter coal plants only recently retrofitted to comply with other pollutant regulations. Meanwhile a 9-year old girl told EPA officials they must adopt the rules to ensure she breathes clean air.

Bill Becker, president of state utility regulators' group the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, told the EPA some states will need more time to design plans to comply with the rules and that other states were not adequately credited for actions already taken to cut emissions.

Mary Martin, energy and environmental council to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the EPA failed to convene a required Small Business Advocacy Review panel for its proposal, which "is intended to give small businesses a voice in the rule making process."

Commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which oversees the electric grid, on Tuesday testified separately to skeptical Republican lawmakers about the EPA plan.

"EPA is embarking on this comprehensive effort to federalize energy planning even though the agency has absolutely no energy policy setting authority or expertise," said Representative Ed Whitfield on Kentucky.

Philip Moeller, a Republican appointee, told lawmakers that FERC should play a more formal in working with the EPA to address electric grid reliability.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-climatechange-usa-plan-20140729,0,5951240.story

reNews – “AWEA backs Clean Power Plan”

The proposed federal regulations on carbon pollution from existing electric power plants under the Clean Power Plan can be an economic boon to wind-rich states if they meet them by developing more wind energy, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

Electricity generated from a wind farm in one location allows a utility to reduce generation from fossil fuels and therefore carbon output in another, said the trade body's vice president for federal regulatory affairs Tom Vinson (pictured).

Vinson is scheduled to testify tonight in Washington DC at the local EPA hearing on the administration's proposals, which were unveiled in June.

He will say in his statement: "Overall, AWEA strongly supports the draft rule proposed by the EPA. EPA rightfully follows the lead of dozens of states, many leading power plant owners, and various regions of our country that have already embraced the carbon reduction, economic development, and job creation opportunities of renewable energy.

"The resulting emissions reductions contribute equally to the goal of mitigating climate change and protecting the public health and welfare."

EPA field hearings this week in Denver, Pittsburgh and Atlanta will hear from companies that develop wind power and regional advocates for more renewable energy.

"Wind energy provides a substantial opportunity as a reliable and affordable compliance option under the draft rule," Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition executive director Bruce Burcat will testify.

He notes that a recent study by PJM, the regional grid operator for 13 Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states and the District of Columbia, found wind energy could power 30% of its power grid "while reducing wholesale prices by billions of dollars annually".

Vinson and AWEA's member companies and regional partners agree and will testify that, while they support the draft rule, "the final rule can and should require emissions reductions that go further than proposed in the draft rule, particularly in light of the lengthy compliance period".

A full copy of Vinson's testimony is available here.

http://renews.biz/71471/awea-backs-clean-power-plan/

World Coal – "Coal industry testifies against EPA carbon rule"

The coal industry has offered its testimony on the impact of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule limiting carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants at a public hearing in Washington DC.

"EPA's proposal is another step in this administration's policies designed to eliminate low cost and reliable electricity and replace it with more expensive and less reliable sources," said Hal Quinn, CEO of the National Mining Association. "By reducing the diversity of our nation's electricity supply and raising its costs, [the] EPA will create a structural barrier for our economic recovery and future growth."

Echoing Quinn, Fredrick Palmer, senior vice president of government relations at Peabody Energy, argued that "using coal for electricity enables people to live longer and better and drives the lowest US electricity costs for any major fuel."

"This proposal would endanger human health and welfare by making electricity – one of life's necessities – scarce and expensive," Palmer continued, arguing that the "the real endangerment finding" is the harm the rule will have on the most vulnerable in society, as well as on a "fledgling economy".

Instead, Palmer said, technology offers a better way to reducing carbon emissions, while maintaining electricity affordability. This could include investing in efficiency improvements, deploying advanced supercritical coal-fired power plants and supporting greater R&D into next generation technologies – including carbon capture and storage.

"We must reject the Administration's harmful carbon proposal and put in place a technology path for long-term improvement in carbon emissions. This is a far better path for a clean, secure energy future," Palmer concluded.

The EPA is holding a four public hearings on its proposed carbon regulations in Washington DC, Altanta, Denver and Pittsburgh. An estimated 1600 people are expected to testify during the 11-hour sessions.

http://www.worldcoal.com/news/power/articles/World-Coal-US-coal-industry-testifies-against-EPA-carbon-rule-coal1149.aspx#.U9lH-_ldXOE

Insurance Journal – "Climate Change Debate in Denver Pits Coal Miners vs. Skiers"

Coal miners took on skiers, and environmentalists dueled with business groups as the public debated sweeping rules from the Obama administration to combat global warming in a nationwide series of hearings yesterday.

At the one in Denver, the ski industry said that without the proposed curbs on carbon emissions from power plants, climate change will result in less snow, fewer tourists and lost jobs. Mining companies countered that the plan would raise electricity costs, resulting in shuttered factories and trouble for states' economies.

At Burns & Wilcox, our network of domestic and international carriers opens doors to the broadest range of markets. Whatever your clients' needs may be, we deliver quotes and binders fast while making the hard-to-place easy.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Participants began to line up early to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

Inaction on Climate Change Costs Economy: White House

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the EPA, economic trade offs for the rules were debated at an 11-hour session. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with

people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

“We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April,” Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview. “Without that, we wouldn’t be able to offer top to bottom skiing.”

Ski industry leaders said the EPA’s 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state’s worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year — more than any other U.S. state — to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying “as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities.”

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation’s ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn’t recovered from the recession.

“Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table — mining companies are the largest taxpayers in Moffat and Routt counties,” Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

Colorado isn’t just a coal state; it also has the nation’s sixth-largest reserve of natural gas, and the use of that fuel is set to expand under the EPA’s plan. The EPA based its carbon targets on states switching from coal to natural gas for electric generation, and outside analysts say that could result in a boom in gas-rich states such as Pennsylvania and Texas.

“Oil and gas resources have great potential to help this country in terms of spurring economic growth, enhancing our energy security and improving our air quality,” Janet McCabe, EPA’s top air pollution regulator, told a luncheon in Washington yesterday. Gas can also help with greenhouse-gas emissions, she said.

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Methane Leaks

Separately, the Energy Department yesterday announced incentives to cut methane leaks from natural-gas processing and transmission, an effort that environmental groups say falls short of necessary rules to curb those leaks.

Methane emissions from natural-gas production, processing, transportation and distribution are

drawing increased scrutiny as the boom in production using hydraulic fracturing has increased use of natural gas. Methane is 25 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, although less prevalent.

The one fuel sure to lose if the EPA plan goes forward is coal.

At the public hearing at the EPA's headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp., the nation's largest coal producer, said the plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

"Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way," Fred Palmer, the company's top regulatory official, said. "The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington."

Carbon Capture

Instead of the EPA's requirements, Palmer said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

While industry groups warned of the risks of curbing coal, the White House released a report yesterday detailing the risks of not acting.

And at the Denver hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

"We were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado. "Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage."

"That's our future," he said. "Our infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

During the Washington hearing, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic- controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," he said.

The hearings continue today in Atlanta, Washington and Denver, while ones in Pittsburgh begin tomorrow.

Among those scheduled to testify today in Washington are Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican opposed to the plan, and his guest, Jimmy Rose, who sang his country tune "Coal Keeps the Lights On" on a television talent show last year.

http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2014/07/30/336132.htm

infoZine – "Clean Power Plan Draws Hundreds to EPA's Washington Office"

Hundreds of people around the U.S. attended the first day of hearings Tuesday about a federal proposal to cut carbon emissions. In Washington, they ate fudge brownie ice cream to mark the occasion. Video

Washington, DC - infoZine - Scripps Howard Foundation Wire -The free scoops of Ben & Jerry's were meant for demonstrators who gathered outside Environmental Protection Agency headquarters for the start of a two-day hearing, one of four around the country, on the Clean Power Plan. The plan proposes to cut carbon emissions from existing U.S. power plants by a third and electric bills by 8 percent.

"There's no emergency room for the Earth. We need to see change," Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said at a news conference after he testified.

Politicians, scientists, industry leaders and environmentalists are among the 1,600 people slated to deliver five-minute statement on the merits or flaws of the EPA's proposal. Hearings are also being held in Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Denver.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-OR, says carbon pollution is an assault on U.S. resources Tuesday at a rally to support the Clean Power Plan after he testified in favor of the program. SHFWire photo by Megan CardThe EPA's request for comments on the climate change rule has drawn 300,000 comments by email, fax or letter, EPA spokeswoman Enesta Jones said. The comment period is open until Oct. 16.

The Clean Power Plan was proposed June 2 and is part of a larger Climate Action Plan that was announced by President Barack Obama last summer. The proposal targets power plants, which account for one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emission, according to the EPA.

EPA officials predict that when the proposed plan is fully in effect in 2030, carbon emissions from these sources will be 30 percent below 2005 levels. There are currently no national limits on carbon.

But some lawmakers are criticizing the EPA's use of the Clean Air Act to propose the plan. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., said Tuesday at a hearing of the House subcommittee on Energy and Power that the agency is overstepping its authority to use the law to tell states how to produce and use electricity.

"Ironically, EPA is embarking on this comprehensive effort to federalize energy planning, even though the agency has absolutely no energy policy-setting authority or expertise," Whitfield said during the hearing.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Acting Chairman Cheryl LaFleur weighed in on the EPA's plan in testimony before the House subcommittee. She said she is mindful of concerns about the Clean Power Plan, but that FERC will remain engaged with the rollout of new EPA regulations.

What happens next with carbon emission will be up to the states. The plan requires states to identify a

path using either current or new electricity policies to meet the EPA's guidelines.

The federal-state partnership means it will be a long time before the plan is in effect, Debbie Sease, director of advocacy for the Sierra Club, said. She spoke at the rally that her group helped organize.

Sease stood among a crowd of hundreds of people holding signs reading "Climate Action Now" and "Protect Our Communities." Children threw blow-up balls that looked like the Earth into the air as others held pinwheels as a symbol of support for wind energy.

Sease has worked with the Sierra Club for 30 years. Finding a way to affect climate change has been her entire career, but she said still enjoys watching others express their support to change the environment.

"People got on buses to D.C. to testify at this hearing, to be here at this rally," she said. "That kind of public action on behalf of the environment is very exciting."

http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/59528/

BNA – "Power Plant Rule Would Threaten Economy With No Climate Benefit, Industry Says"

July 29 — An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants would drive up electricity costs and cause significant job losses without providing a tangible climate benefit, coal-reliant states and industry groups said at a public hearing July 29.

"The U.S. cannot go it alone and expect that our actions will have a meaningful climate impact in a world economy that is using more coal and more fossil fuels every day," Paul Cicio, president of Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said a hearing in Washington.

Utilities and industry groups called on the EPA to conduct further economic analysis of its proposal before issuing a final rule. Environmental groups largely supported the proposal but pushed the EPA to seek greater emissions reductions from the power sector through increased investments in renewable generation and demand reduction programs.

"Protecting our children from carbon pollution is your legal duty and our moral obligation," Greg Dotson, vice president for energy policy at the Center for American Progress, said.

The EPA's proposed standards would set a unique carbon dioxide emissions rate for the power sector in each state (RIN 2060-AR33). The states would administer the standards under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. The EPA anticipates its proposal could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the existing fleet of power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 at a cost to the power industry of $5.4 billion to $8.8 billion in 2030 (79 Fed. Reg. 34,959).

Job Losses Feared

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pledged to continue to oppose the EPA's proposed rule in Congress and criticized the agency's failure to hold public listening sessions on the rule in coal-producing states.

"By not coming to West Virginia, to Kentucky, to the coal-producing and coal-consuming states, you send a message that our views and our experiences don't matter," she said. "To have the federal government refuse to listen to that segment is frustrating and demoralizing for us."

The EPA also accepted public comments at hearings in Atlanta and Denver July 29.

It will continue to accept comments July 30 during public hearings in Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C., and July 31 and Aug. 1 in Pittsburgh.

Coal proponents said the emissions rates the EPA has proposed would largely preclude states from relying on coal-fired generation. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said the proposal would allow coal-dependent states to continue to rely on coal-fired generation.

Capito predicted the EPA's proposed rule could increase electricity prices and cause significant job losses in West Virginia, which produces 95 percent of its electricity from coal.

Unions also were concerned about potential job losses as coal-fired power plants retire in response to the EPA's proposed carbon dioxide standards as well as other emissions limits for power plants.

Bruce Burton, representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said 40 percent of the existing coal power plant fleet is expected to retire as result of the EPA's carbon dioxide proposal and existing mercury and air toxics standards (MATS). That equates to 400,000 lost jobs, he said.

“Given the IBEW's experience with MATS, those numbers could be much worse,” Burton said.

Additional Analysis Needed

Shifting electricity generation from coal to natural gas presents reliability concerns because natural gas cannot be stockpiled, Cicio said. Rising electricity prices could cause more manufacturers to offshore their operations, which could actually increase emissions, he said. Cicio said the EPA needs to consider this “carbon leakage” when it tallies the benefits of its proposal.

“We need to be honest with each other. There will be jobs created in the renewable energy sector and other sectors, but there will be job losses in other sectors,” Jeffrey Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell & Giuliani LLP who represents the power industry, said on behalf of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council.

Mary Martin, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the EPA has not sufficiently evaluated what impacts its proposal would have on small businesses. She called on the EPA to convene a small business review panel under the Regulatory Flexibility Act and further evaluate the impact its regulations have on employment as required by Section 321 of the Clean Air Act.

Environmental Groups Want Stronger Rule

Environmental groups supported the EPA's proposal but argued the agency could do more to encourage the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Industry groups historically have overestimated the cost of complying with air pollution regulations, environmental groups said.

“Industry has certainly done their best to scare the public,” Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said. “They do it every time we try to make the air cleaner. Every time their predictions have been flat wrong.”

Despite their protests, environmental groups said power plants have been able to deliver cost-effective emissions reductions under EPA regulations in the past.

“Electric utilities are typically sophisticated entities that can innovate and respond to policy direction,” Dotson of the Center for American Progress said.

States Praise Outreach

State air pollution regulators also supported the EPA's proposal but asked the agency to extend the compliance deadline for states that may need to take legislative action to comply.

Additionally, state regulators said at the hearing in Atlanta July 29 that the EPA's proposed rule may not give states that already have taken steps to address greenhouse gas emissions enough credit for those measures.

At the hearing in Denver July 29, speakers also described the impacts climate change is having on the West, including reduced snowpack, hotter fires, bigger floods, and more prolonged droughts.

Praise for State Outreach

At the Washington hearing, Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, praised the EPA for its outreach to states prior to proposing the rule. The rule will provide state air pollution regulators with the flexibility to develop the compliance plans that best suit their needs.

“EPA not only engaged in discussion, it also listened carefully to what was said,” Becker said.

Supreme Court Cited

Opponents of the EPA's proposed rule argued that the U.S. Supreme Court had recently cautioned the EPA about reading its ability to regulate greenhouse gases too broadly.

“When an agency claims to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power to regulate ‘a significant portion of the American economy,' Brown & Williamson, 529 U. S., at 159, we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism,” Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a recent opinion that limited the scope of the EPA's greenhouse gas permitting program (Util. Air Regulatory Grp. v. EPA, 2014 BL 17297, U.S., No. 12-1146, 6/23/14).

Matt Schlapp, chairman of American Conservative Union, argued the EPA's interpretation of its authority to regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act is overly broad. Instead, he said Congress should take action to address climate change.

“If the goal is to make sound policy, our democratic system is the right system to use, not bureaucratic fiat,” he said.

The EPA could actually delay taking action on climate change if its rule is too ambitious and is eventually struck down by the courts as unlawful, Holmstead said.

“The Supreme Court has not given EPA a roving mandate to do whatever it thinks is best,” he said.

Democrats Support Proposal

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), who authored a greenhouse gas cap and trade bill in 2009, said Massachusetts already has reduced carbon dioxide emissions from its power plants by 40 percent from 2005 levels as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, demonstrating the EPA's proposal is feasible.

“America must lead. History calls us to reduce greenhouse gases and unleash a clean energy revolution,” he said.

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell (D) argued that states can transition to a cleaner electricity generator sector without disrupting the economy, citing his own state's experience.

“We know this in Delaware where we've shifted from one of the dirtiest energy mixes in the nation to one of the cleanest,” he said.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) called climate change “a direct assault on rural America” because warming temperatures already are impacting forestry and fishing jobs in his state.

“If you talk to foresters in Oregon, climate change is not some distant threat. It's happening now,” he said.

Other Democrats touted the EPA's estimate the proposal would provide between $55 billion and $93 billion in health benefits in 2030.

“The economic case, I think, is compelling,” Rep. Anna Eschoo (D-Calif.) said.

http://www.bna.com/power-plant-rule-n17179893087/

To: Colaizzi, Jennifer C.[Colaizzi.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia[Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Fri 8/1/2014 2:37:54 PM
Subject: OPS Clearance Today

Both Laura Allen and Monica Lee are back in the office today, so we should resume running responses by them for clearance. Liz Purchia is covering the Pittsburgh Clean Power Plan public hearing today. - George

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 5:57:03 PM
Subject: RE: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

Just in case you missed it, the reporter thanked us for our response at 10:54 am, an hour before his deadline. - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Hull, George; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Jones, Enesta
Subject: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

First story I've seen really critiquing the hearings themselves, focused on not allowing everyone who wants to speak to speak, Federal ID requirements and the size of the hearing rooms. They're making the assumption that we are preventing people against the rule from speaking. But it was a first come first serve process correct?

It does include our responses about working to accommodate as many speakers as possible and to ensure Federal ID doesn't stop people from participating.

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups

Won’t Be Heard

1:19 PM 07/29/2014

Michael Bastasch

The Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its week of field hearings on its Clean Power Plan. Thousands have signed up to speak, but others got notices from the EPA saying they would not get a time slot to testify before agency officials.

The EPA’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The plan has been backed by environmental groups and Democrats, but opposed by businesses and Republicans who say it will raise energy costs and force the shutdown of coal plants.

To get feedback on the rule, the agency announced four public field hearings across the country this week. The hearings will take place at federal buildings in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

Around 1,600 people have signed up to speak, but not everyone was allowed to have time to testify before agency officials. Some groups critical of the EPA’s agenda were not able to secure speaking slots despite signing up early.

Matthew Kandrach was surprised to find an email from the EPA eight days after he submitted a request for a time slot to speak. Kandrach is vice president at the free-market group the 60 Plus Association, which is opposed to the EPA’s CPP because it would raise power prices for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

“This is literally a life or death situation for seniors when they have to choose between food, medication and energy,” Kandrach told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Kandrach signed up for on July 9 for his group to speak at hearings in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. After signing up for the hearing, he got no confirmation email, but was simply directed to a landing page which thanked him for his submission. With no confirmation email sent, the 60 Plus Association believed they had secured a time to speak.

But eight days later, Kandrach got a confusing email (which went into his spam folder) from an EPA official saying no time slots were left open to speak at the hearing in Atlanta. The EPA official said they would be able to attend the Atlanta hearing and could even request to have speaking time, but there was no guarantee such a request would be granted.

“Once you sign up why wouldn’t you get an instant response?” Kandrach asked TheDCNF. “Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up.”

“Why didn’t they do even more sign-ups if they were too overwhelmed?” Kandrach added.

The free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute encountered a similar problem. It too signed up to speak on the record at the hearing in Washington, D.C., only to receive an email about two weeks later saying it would not get a speaking time slot.

“We signed up very shortly after we had the ability to do so,” CEI senior fellow William Yeatman told TheDCNF. “Ten to thirteen days later, we were told all the time slots were full and they could not accommodate us.”

“I’m very disappointed,” Yeatman added. “I thought we signed up early enough to get a spot.”

TheDCNF was also told by sources that the National Black Chamber of Commerce was not able to secure a speaking slot for at least one of the EPA hearings, but the group did not immediately respond to our request for comment. NBCC has warned that EPA’s carbon emissions cuts would raise prices, disproportionately harm minority businesses and communities.

“For low-income Americans, too many of whom are African-American, this rule could also be extremely harmful,” NBCC Harry Ashford wrote in the Hill newspaper. “With energy costs rising at a pace greater than the average family income, families, especially low-income families, are shouldering an enormous burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing.”

“Many groups and individuals who hoped to provide their input at this week’s public hearings were not even able to secure a speaking slot, and the high demand for input, and growing chorus of opposition, reinforces the need to expand the public comment period and hold more hearings across the country, especially in areas most affected by these overreaching regulations,” said Laura Sheehan, spokeswoman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

“Contrary to what you have heard, we’re working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak,” an EPA spokesman told TheDCNF. “We expect to hear from about 1,600 people over the course of the week.”

The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states “must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held.” Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

“This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents’) attendance now virtually impossible,” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren’t likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

Even environmentalist were shocked by the agency’s stringent ID requirements. But the EPA has said it would work to make sure everyone who wanted to see the hearing was able to.

“We were pretty taken aback by it,” Alex DeSha, an organizer for the Sierra Club in eastern Kentucky, told E&E News. “A lot of people don’t know that this is even a thing.”

“It’s 200 bucks to get a passport expedited,” DeSha added. “It’s just one more step that will disenfranchise people from engaging in the public process.”

The coal industry and others have also criticized the EPA for the location of the public hearings — in space-restricted locations far away from coal country.

“It seems like there’s been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage,” Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

Read more: http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sgZ4SPT

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:40:47 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Sounds good. I will convey to the reporter. - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Hull, George
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

I think you can say we're working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak. We expect to hear from about 1600 people over the course of the week.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Purchia, Liz
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Just thinking about this a bit more. Do you want to single out Pittsburgh, or just say that there are still opportunities for those who are interested to register to speak. Andrea confirms that they are not turning speakers away in Atlanta. - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Hull, George
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

I think that works, if they need a name you can use mine.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Purchia, Liz
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Thanks. Do you want me to send to the reporter and attribute to a senior agency spokesperson? - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

We think we'll be able to accommodate everyone who registered to speak. We expect to hear from about 1600 people over the course of the week.

There are still speaking slots available Friday in Pittsburgh and people can register to speak in person at the hearing location.

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule#register

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:16 AM
To: Purchia, Liz; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Flagging for your attention. Reporter asking about speakers being turned away from today's hearing. Deadline is noon. - George

From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

Hi,

I've been told by several groups that they were not able to get a time slot to testify during the CPP hearings being held today. Has the agency had to give cancellations to a lot of groups? Was

there a particular way the agency prioritized the way it gave away time slots?

Please let me know ASAP. My deadline is noon. Thanks.

Best,

Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:30:02 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Just thinking about this a bit more. Do you want to single out Pittsburgh, or just say that there are still opportunities for those who are interested to register to speak. Andrea confirms that they are not turning speakers away in Atlanta. - George

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To: Hull, George
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Cell: 202-841-2230

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To: Purchia, Liz
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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Best,

Mike

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Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:23:24 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Thanks. Do you want me to send to the reporter and attribute to a senior agency spokesperson? - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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Cell: 202-841-2230

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Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

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Mike

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Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
From: Hull, George
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:15:31 PM
Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Flagging for your attention. Reporter asking about speakers being turned away from today's hearing. Deadline is noon. - George

From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

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Please let me know ASAP. My deadline is noon. Thanks.

Best,

Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Google Alerts
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 5:54:42 PM
Subject: Google Alert - epa

epa

As-it-happens update □ July 31, 2014

NEWS

EPA Emissions Plan Draws Protest in Pittsburgh

Wall Street Journal (blog)

Some of those have backed the **Environmental Protection Agency's** proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions over the next several decades, while ...

EPA talks on pollution limits trigger demonstrations Downtown - WPXI Pittsburgh

2 days of EPA coal pollution hearings begin in Pittsburgh - WTAE Pittsburgh

EPA hearing on coal-fired power plant regulations draws large crowd - Washington Observer Reporter

Full Coverage

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EPA Green Lights NGS

Indian Country Today Media Network

The **Environmental Protection Agency** has green lighted the Navajo Generating Station in northern Arizona to operate until 2030 on the condition that ...

Flag as irrelevant

At EPA Hearing, Religious Leaders Call Carbon Pollution 'An Affront To God'

ThinkProgress

Rev. Marjani Dele, minister of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, speaks at Wednesday's hearing on the **EPA's** Clean Power Plan.

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To: Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Allen, Laura
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 5:36:37 PM
Subject: Additional clips from ATL

Additional clips from yesterday.

WABE- NPR Atlanta

Debate Continues Over Impact of EPA Carbon-Cutting Plan

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By JONATHAN SHAPIRO

State Rep. Mike Dudgeon,R-Johns Creek, speaking at a rally Tuesday against EPA's carbon proposal.

Two days of hearings on the U.S. Environmental Protection's Agency's new carbon-cutting proposal wrapped up Wednesday in downtown Atlanta.

Supporters and opponents continued to debate the proposal's actual effect on ratepayers.

EPA's rule would force existing U.S. power plants to cut carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030.

Perhaps the most discussed line of attack has been the claim that the proposed carbon rule will have little to no effect on climate change and public health.

State Rep. Mike Dudgeon, R-Johns Creek, said the rule would force coal plants to shut down, thus pushing domestic coal producers to export more to unregulated countries like China and India.

"They're going to continue to do what they want and continue to pump CO2 in the air. The United States makes a marginal reduction in the worldwide scheme of things...it's not enough benefit to the environment to be worth the economic drag," said Dudgeon.

Dudgeon agrees the country is headed towards cleaner, greener energy. He actually tried and failed to pass pro-solar legislation earlier this year.

But he's convinced the rule will kill jobs and raise utility bills.

"It's better to let the economy grow and the market will come up with solutions and we'll naturally move that way," said Dudgeon.

EPA's Reed Harvey said he can't predict what China and India will do in the future. But he's confident the benefits for the U.S., both financially and in terms of public health, far outweigh short-term costs.

"The rule produces benefits in terms of reducing greenhouses gas emissions and that's substantial, about half the benefits there. And then the other half is a reduction in fine particles and ozone and that produces a lot of benefits in the U.S. reduced hospital visits and reductions in asthma," said Harvey.

Roughly 20 million Americans suffer from asthma. The American Lung Association estimates the carbon rule when fully implemented in 2030 will prevent up to 150,000 asthma attacks and 6600 premature deaths per year.

Harvey says the case is strong for action.

"Even if you took the nonclimate benefits, just the human health benefits. Those outweigh the cost of the rule seven to one, so we think on that basis it's justified," said Harvey.

EPA expects to finalize the rule next summer. States would then have to submit individual implementation plans the next year.

TAGS:
Environmental Protection Agency

Mike Dudgeon

climate change

carbon emissions

Online Athens

EPA says cutting coal use might save lives

By ANDY MILLERGEORGIA HEALTH NEWS – updated Wednesday, July 30, 2014 -

8:51pm

- •

  While opponents say the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to reduce carbon emissions will cost jobs and bring higher electric bills, supporters of the proposal note beneficial health effects.The EPA is holding hearings in Atlanta and three other cities this week on its plan for reducing power plants' carbon emissions.

While opponents say the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to reduce carbon emissions will cost jobs and bring higher electric bills, supporters of the proposal note beneficial health effects.

The EPA is holding hearings in Atlanta and three other cities this week on its plan for reducing power plants' carbon emissions.

Those in favor of the changes say that as coal plants shut down or are replaced with cleaner natural gas, there will be fewer conventional pollutants in the air. Specifically, that means fewer lung-damaging particulates and less ground-level ozone, or smog.

The EPA expects that the resulting cleaner air will mean fewer asthma attacks and hospitalizations, and 2,700 to 6,600 fewer premature deaths per year by 2030.

Dr. LeRoy Graham, a pediatric pulmonologist who practices in the Atlanta area, said Tuesday that as the carbon "footprint" in the air increases, "people with lung problems are suffering more. The health threats are increasing."

Graham said that the poor, the young and the old are disproportionately affected by ozone and other kinds of air pollution. African Americans have a high rate of asthma, he added.

Atlanta consistently ranks in the Top 10 cities in terms of the prevalence of asthma, he said. Graham cited the city's traffic congestion as among factors exacerbating the health condition and the number of children's hospital admissions related to it.

By not addressing carbon pollution, Graham said, "we're mortgaging the future of our children.''

On Tuesday, rallies and marches were held in downtown Atlanta, where the EPA hearing took place.

Under the plan, the EPA will set individual state-by-state carbon emissions goals. States can propose a variety of measures to hit those targets.

Federal officials have never before tried to restrict carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

The EPA's proposal seeks to cut carbon emissions nationwide 30 percent by 2030. Georgia, home to some of the dirtiest coal plants in the country, must reduce even more during that time. The nation's largest single source of carbon emissions is Georgia Power Co.'s Plant Scherer, just north of Macon.

Georgia once produced more than half of its electricity from coal-fired plants. But coal produced just over a third of the state's energy in April, according to a report by The Associated Press.

The EPA says power plants are the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, making up roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

Opponents of the EPA plan have stressed the potential negative consequences of the proposed rules on the economy, and they were vocal about it this week.

"These rules if they are adopted, we believe, they will kill thousands of jobs and they will raise electricity bills in Georgia," Joel Foster with Americans for Prosperity Georgia told Georgia Public Broadcasting.

State Rep. Chuck Martin, R-Alpharetta, said at the Atlanta EPA hearing Tuesday that "if coal comes off the trains, all the other products that ride on the trains are going to get more expensive in your department store, in your grocery store. If you don't believe that that will have a negative impact on the economy, then we just differ."

http://onlineathens.com/breaking-news/2014-07-30/epa-says-cutting-coal-use-might-save-lives

Atlanta Biz Chronicle
Jul 30, 2014, 2:59pm EDT **UPDATED:** Jul 30, 2014, 5:40pm EDT

Utility execs blast proposed carbon crackdown

Enlarge Photo

Georgia Power CEO Paul Bowers

Dave Williams
Staff Writer-*Atlanta Business Chronicle*

Georgians would pay more for electricity if a federal proposal to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants becomes reality, the heads of three utilities warned Wednesday.

On the second of two days of public hearings in Atlanta on the proposed rule, the CEOs of Georgia Power Co.,Oglethorpe Power Corp. and MEAG Power issued a joint statement criticizing theEnvironmental Protection Agency plan as "unprecedented in scope and reach" and questioning whether it could even be implemented.

"The rule is an illegal approach that usurps the authority of each state," the executives wrote. "The goals, as written, are unachievable and take away the ability of Georgia's electric generators to continue to run our fleets as optimally as possible. ... [And] electricity rates will go up, something acknowledged in EPA's own estimates."

The EPA is calling on America's utilities to cut carbon emissions 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The federal agency also has set individual goals for each state, a move EPA officials argue allows greater flexibility in deciding how to achieve the reductions based on local conditions.

During the first day of hearings Tuesday, members of the Georgia Public Service Commission echoed the concerns expressed by the utility executives, objecting to the plan as federal intrusion into the PSC's authority.

But much of the testimony came from environmental activists praising the EPA for moving to address climate change and protect the health of children and others susceptible to respiratory illnesses.

An EPA spokeswoman noted that the U.S. Supreme Court gave the agency the authority to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant in a 2007 ruling.

Laura Allen said the proposed carbon rule is expected to lower electric rates across the U.S. by 2030 because it will encourage the development of energy efficiency technology that will reduce demand for electricity.

"The Clean Power Plan will also encourage investment in 21st century jobs upgrading our energy infrastructure," she said.

- 1
- Page 2

|View All

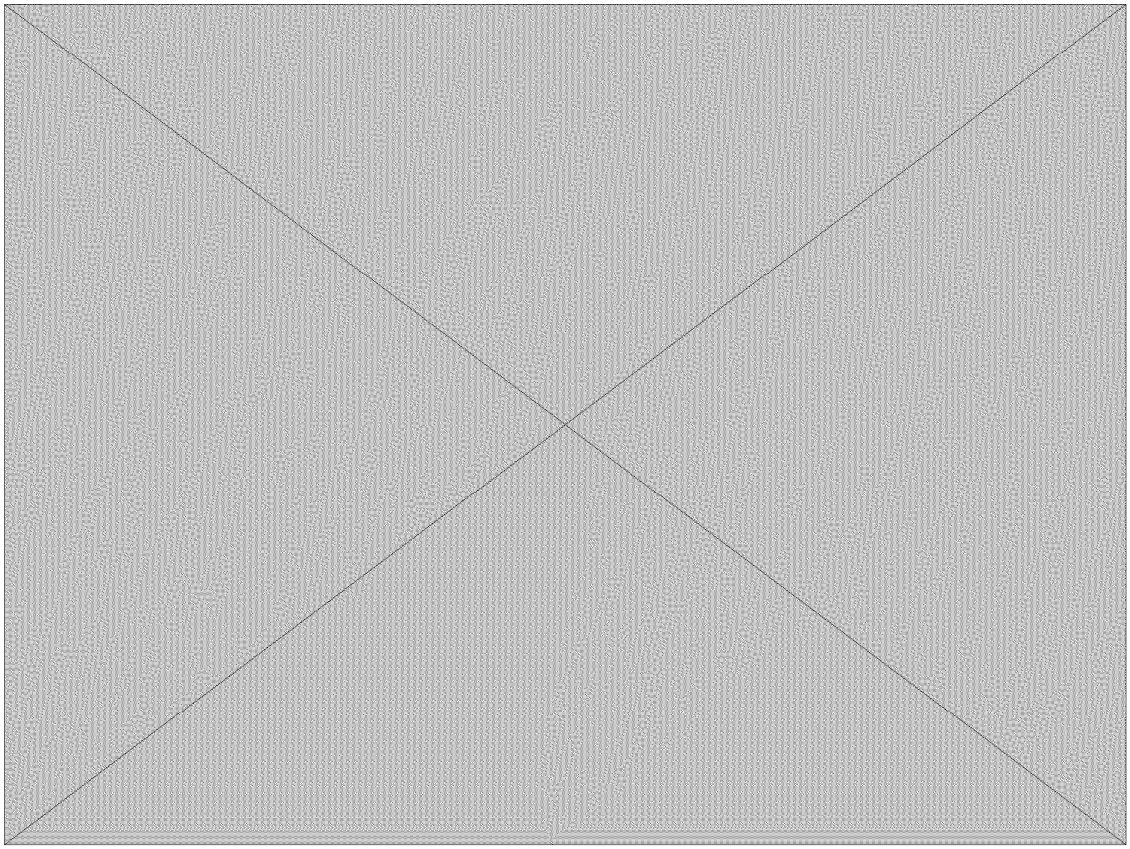
Dave Williams covers Government

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/utility-execs-blast-proposed-carbon-crackdown.html?page=2

Creative Loafing

Green battle lines formed at Atlanta EPA hearing

Posted by Maggie Lee on Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 3:21 PM



- MAGGIE LEE

- **Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters, says 50,000 of the League's members and supporters have asked the EPA to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.**

If success in setting federal air pollution policy were measured by comfortable walking shoes on the ground in Downtown, matching T-shirts, and folks giving away donuts and Ben & Jerry's ice cream, Tuesday would be considered a big success for those who want to see carbon dioxide limits on existing power plants.

Unseasonably pleasant weather greeted ralliers from all over the Deep South in Centennial Olympic Park, just under the windows of the Omni Hotel, where the federal Environmental Protection Agency was inside holding regional hearings on mandating lower carbon dioxide intensity from power generation nationwide.

"Georgia can build on the success we've already had ramping up solar power and bringing in clean, low-cost wind to create jobs, lower power prices and clean up our air," said Mary Anne Hitt, national director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign. The West Virginia resident traveled to Atlanta for the hearing and the club was a prime mover in organizing green turnout.

The EPA wants all the states to cut how much carbon dioxide is emitted per megawatt-hour of electricity produced. Georgia's intensity was 1,500 tons per MWh in 2012, according to the EPA's math. Federal officials want the number down to 834 by 2030.

Georgia Power, the state's biggest electric utility, and the place where 2.4 million Georgians get their power, says that's too much.

"The guidelines penalize Georgia for taking early action in constructing new nuclear," said Ron Shipman, vice president of environmental affairs at Georgia Power.
Georgia Power is doubling capacity at its nuclear Plant Vogtle on the Savannah River near Augusta. That project, plus a handful of others started by other utilities over the past few years, has helped break a generation-long drought of new nuclear construction.

Given that step it's already made away from carbon dioxide Georgia Power thinks going all the way down to 834 is an oversized burden.

The EPA says its targets were set based on what the agency thought each state, given its mix of power sources, could achieve. Its goal is to cut the nation's share of energy coming from coal to 31 percent. In 2013, about 39 percent of the nation's energy came from coal.

Georgia Power has some flexibility in how much power it generates from its main fuels, coal and natural gas. When natural gas is cheap, as it has been lately, the utility leans on its gas plants. When demand for electricity is high, the company leans on all its plants. Shipman said the cost of the new regulation, if passed in its current form, cannot yet be quantified.

According to the EPA, carbon dioxide causes two big bummers: global warming and poor health.

Organic farmer Joe Reynolds dates his professional life by weather events. In 2008 on a Douglasville farm, he suffered drought. In 2009, "there was the crazy 20-inch rain event," which washed him out of business for the season. On his East Lake farm "in 2012, we had the 107-degree day."

At farming conferences, he said, the talk is about erratic weather: warmer weather year-round, punctuated by temperature spikes and polar vortex dips; and rain and drought extending too long. Too much summer heat fries the organic matter in his soil, he testified to the EPA. And warmer winters fail to freeze weeds and pests to death.

"In 2013 I found myself in one of the wettest years I've ever farmed in, which adversely affected my ability to do much of anything," said Reynolds.

Dr. Robert Geller, chief of pediatrics at Grady Health System, said air quality directly impacts health, and that air pollution may be more severe for children because they generally inhale more air than adults compared to their body size.

There are clear health benefits to less combustion from sources like cars and power plants, Geller said. Cuts could be costly, he added, but "we are better off working for clean air and paying our money there instead of paying it in adverse health effects."

Asthma is not caused by carbon dioxide molecules per se, but the EPA calculates that the steps power companies would make to meet the 2030 targets could have the side effect of cutting particulate matter, which does contribute to the lung disease. Besides that, by the EPA's calculation, the global warming caused by carbon dioxide contributes to ozone formation and the poorer air quality that does cause respiratory difficulties.

"The League of Women Voters strongly supports the clean power plan proposed by the EPA because it is essential that we take steps to reduce carbon pollution for the sake of our children and grandchildren," said LWV national president and Georgia resident Elisabeth MacNamara.

Members and supporters of the League, she said, have already generated more than 50,000 comments in favor of the rule.

But Scott Segal, executive director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, said his energy company members provide power to millions of customers across the Southeast. He's got concerns.

This proposal "could eventually threaten the reliability of our country's electric supply and result in significantly higher costs without appreciable benefits," he said.

For one, carbon emissions are an international issue, he said. For two, a polar vortex or a heat wave under the new rule could "subject citizens to energy shortages and price shocks."

Atlanta hearings continue throughout the day. Public comment on the proposed rule closes on Oct. 16. The EPA is set to take any action by next June.

TAGS: EPA, CARBON DIOXIDE, PLANT VOGTLE, IMAGE

http://clatl.com/freshloaf/archives/2014/07/30/green-battle-lines-formed-at-atlanta-epa-hearing

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Google Alerts
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 7:17:23 AM
Subject: Google Alert - epa

epa

As-it-happens update □ July 31, 2014

NEWS

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pharostribune.com

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To: Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: AO OEAEE MEDIA RELATIONS[AO_OEAEE_MEDIA_RELATIONS@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 2:56:03 PM
Subject: Re: Media Present: Day 2 of CPP Hearing

Update:
Politico
Religion News Service
Bloomberg
VoltaCuts

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
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On Jul 30, 2014, at 9:04 AM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

BNA
Law 360
Argus
FOX News

Enesta Jones
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Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: AO OEAEE MEDIA RELATIONS[AO_OEAEE_MEDIA_RELATIONS@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 1:04:02 PM
Subject: Media Present: Day 2 of CPP Hearing

BNA
Law 360
Argus
FOX News

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U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
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To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 9:14:12 PM
Subject: Media Monitoring: CPP Hearing -- Day 1

9News

EPA hearing to draw big crowds in Denver

http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/climate-change-epa-hearing/13307887/

The Daily Caller

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sj6Rodt

The Guardian

EPA to hold public hearings on new rules to cut carbon emissions

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/29/epa-hearings-pollution-carbon-emissions

The Tribune

Across US, opponents and supporters call power-plant pollution rules too much or too little

http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/84014de7329e420e8796aac2a475a9cf/US--Climate-Change-EPA

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Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20140729&id=17813858

St. Louis Public Radio

Peabody Asks EPA To Withdraw Carbon Emissions Proposal

http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/peabody-asks-epa-withdraw-carbon-emissions-proposal

Craig Daily Press

EPA hearings prompt Craig and Steamboat constituents to rally for coal in Denver Tuesday

http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2014/jul/29/craig-and-steamboat-coal-constituents-head-denver-/

Star News Online

Activists, officials, residents gather in support of Clean Power Plan

http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20140729/ARTICLES/140729610?Title=Activists-officials-residents-gather-in-support-of-Clean-Power-Plan

Fetch Your News

EPA Hearings To be Held Today and Tomorrow in Atlanta-Political Titans to Hold Separate Rallies

http://fannin.fetchyournews.com/archives/6224-EPA-Hearings-To-be-Held-Today-and-Tomorrow-in-Atlanta-Political-Titans-to-Hold-Separate-Rallies.html

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html

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The Top Five Bloomberg BNA Energy and Climate Report Stories for the Week Ending July 25

http://www.bna.com/top-five-bloomberg-b17179893050/

North American Windpower

EPA Holds Public Hearings On Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13243

Environment & Energy Publishing

In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003676

Electric Co-Op Today

Costs Come to Fore in Hearing on EPA Carbon Rule

http://www.ect.coop/regulatory-watch/environmental-regulation/costs-come-to-fore-in-hearing-on-epa-carbon-rule/72305

Politico

Inside the EPA climate rule hearings — FERC weighs in on EPA rules — U.S., EU to toughen Russian sanctions — House takes up ESA bill

http://www.politico.com/morningenergy/0714/morningenergy14807.html

The Coal Valley News

Advocates to speak at EPA hearing in Pittsburgh

http://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/business/50085073/Advocates-to-speak-at-EPA-hearing-

in-Pittsburgh#.U9flt_ldXOE

KDVR (Fox)

I'm Too Hot Campaign

http://kdvr.com/2014/07/29/im-too-hot-campaign/

KGWN (CBS)

Here is the latest Wyoming news from The Associated Press

http://www.kgwn.tv/news/cbs/headlines/Wyoming-Headlines-269033971.html

Michigan Radio

EPA holding public hearings on Clean Power Plan

http://michiganradio.org/post/epa-holding-public-hearings-clean-power-plan

The Equation

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http://blog.ucsusa.org/pennsylvania-and-the-clean-power-plan-603

The Plain Dealer

Obama administration defends clean air proposal as public hearings begin

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/07/obama_administration_defends_c.html

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Power companies still have questions and concerns about new EPA carbon rules

http://news.prairiepublic.org/post/power-companies-still-have-questions-and-concerns-about-new-epa-carbon-rules

GPB

EPA Holds 'Clean Power Plan' Hearings in Atlanta

http://www.gpb.org/news/2014/07/29/epa-holds-%E2%80%98clean-power-plan%E2%80%99-hearings-in-atlanta

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EPA to Get an Earful on Clean Air

http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-07-29/climate-change-air-quality/epa-to-get-an-earful-on-clean-air/a40822-1

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Hearings begin in four cities for proposed EPA clean power plan

http://www.examiner.com/article/hearings-begin-four-cities-for-proposed-epa-clean-power-plan

Concord Monitor

Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12930005-95/concord-hearing-gives-the-public-a-chance-to-comment-on-epa-clean-power-plan

Winston-Salem Journal

EPA seeks public comments on rules linked to climate change

http://www.journalnow.com/news/nation_world/epa-seeks-public-comments-on-rules-linked-to-climate-change/article_e0267828-16ca-11e4-a1d3-0017a43b2370.html

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EPA hearings to bring coal debate to Pittsburgh streets

http://triblive.com/business/headlines/6517950-74/coal-epa-rules#ixzz38sre1vP0

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Big Polluters Cry Wolf Over EPA Plan to Fight Climate Change and Protect Human Health

http://targetednews.com/display_story.php?s_id=1170345

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Groups Prep for EPA Clean Power Plan Hearing

http://wvpublic.org/post/groups-prep-epa-clean-power-plan-hearing

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Clean Power Plan Needs Your Testimony

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The Coal Industry Has Been Fear-Mongering for 40 Years Now

http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118865/pro-coal-ads-show-industry-has-been-predicting-doom-40-years

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Sold-out crowds await EPA at carbon-cutting rules hearingshttp://www.charlestondailymail.com/article/20140728/ARTICLE/140729283/1280#sthash.1owUF6dJ.d

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Preview of Denver's Public Hearing on the EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

http://www.powermag.com/preview-of-denvers-public-hearing-on-the-epas-proposed-clean-power-plan/

Charleston Gazette

As public hearings begin, EPA again defends greenhouse proposalhttp://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140728/GZ01/140729286/1101#sthash.uIVY7tav.dpuf

The Hill

OVERNIGHT ENERGY: The climate rule blitz

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/213563-overnight-energy-the-climate-rule-blitz

Chem.info

Closing The Largest Coal Plant In The West

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EPA Opens Public Hearings on Power Plant Rules

http://www.governing.com/topics/energy-env/gov-epa-opens-public-hearings-on-power-plant-rules.html

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EPA getting mixed signals from public meetings

http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/associated_press/news/national/epa-getting-mixed-signals-from-public-meetings/article_50ae570c-174b-11e4-8269-001a4bcf6878.html

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We Want Clean Power — Fight for It (Op-Ed)

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Phoenix Business Journal

Environmentalists unhappy, could sue over EPA's pollution deal with Arizona power plant

http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2014/07/29/environmentalists-unhappy-could-sue-over-epa-s.html

Morning Times

Clean air rules assailed as too much, too little

http://www.morning-times.com/national_news/article_154a601e-b10d-5bae-a61f-bf7e6d9fca4b.html

Ravalli Republic

Health professionals urge EPA to finalize carbon cleanup rules

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/opinion/columnists/article_14591eb6-c96c-5b84-8b52-76707011a9ac.html

Great Falls Tribune

EPA holding hearings on Obama's plan to cut emissions

http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/29/epa-holding-hearings-obamas-plan-cut-emissions/13311415/

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EPA approves modified Navajo power plant cleanup plan

http://tucson.com/business/national-and-international/epa-approves-modified-navajo-power-plant-cleanup-plan/article_6a4c8058-1a7f-5f88-8c08-9c5c1d2b1c77.html

Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

The EPA's proposed carbon rule would reduce air pollution

http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2014/07/29/The-EPA-s-proposed-carbon-rule-would-reduce-air-pollution/stories/201407290096#ixzz38sy5k6al

The Christian Science Review

White House climate change report: Act now, or pay later

http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0729/White-House-climate-change-report-Act-now-or-pay-later

Peach Pundit

Rep. Lynne Riley: EPA's Proposed Carbon Regulations Will Harm Georgia's Economy

http://www.peachpundit.com/2014/07/29/rep-lynne-riley-epas-proposed-carbon-regulations-will-harm-georgias-economy/

Roll-Call

'Good Ideas' Are Point of EPA Carbon Emissions Hearings, McCarthy Says

http://blogs.rollcall.com/energy-xtra/epa-carbon-emissions-rule-hearings-mccarthy/?dcz=

ThinkProgress

Fossil Fuel-Funded Groups Organizing Public Rallies Against New EPA Climate Rule

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/28/3464833/epa-hearings-fossil-fuel-public-rallies/

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EPA's Carbon Pollution Rules - Good for business, good for the economy

http://www.caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2014/7/2014_07_22_oped_carbon_pollution.html

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Rule aims to help clear air around Grand Canyon

http://www.environmental-expert.com/news/rule-aims-to-help-clear-air-around-grand-canyon-438721

The Augusta Chronicle

Hearing on new Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan rules Tuesday in Atlanta

http://beta.mirror.augusta.com/latest-news/2014-07-28/hearing-new-environmental-protection-agencys-clean-power-plan-rules-tuesday?v=1406580945

WUKY

EPA Hearings Draw Diverse Crowd Of Kentucky Advocates

http://wuky.org/post/epa-hearings-draw-diverse-crowd-kentucky-advocates

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:32:40 PM
Subject: Re: DDL: 7/29; Daily Star RE: CPP Hearing

Will do, thanks.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 29, 2014, at 4:31 PM, "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, but let's add that the list of speakers that was posted was first come first serve and there are still slots available for people to speak. They can register at the hearing location on Thursday and Friday.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:30 PM
To: Purchia, Liz
Cc: Jones, Enesta; Hull, George
Subject: OAR: DDL: 7/29; Daily Star RE: CPP Hearing

GTG? Thanks.

Reporter's info:

Mark Boshnacki

INQUIRY: I am doing a story on the Pittsburgh hearing and just wanted to know how people got on the list of speakers. I'm guessing they had to sign up, how long they can speak for and if there are any othere qualifications.

RESPONSE: Information regarding dates and registration for the Proposed Clean Power Plan public hearings were posted in the Federal Register at:http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602-2373 and on EPA's website at:www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan Individuals wishing to pre-register to present oral testimony at the hearings could either submit an online form through EPA's website, or call or email EPA's designated contact listed in the Federal Register notice. Any interested party is allowed to register to speak at a public hearing and is given five minutes to present their testimony. Registration is not required to attend and listen to testimony but, given the large number of expected attendees, space will be available first-come, first-serve.

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:31:46 PM
Subject: RE: DDL: 7/29; Daily Star RE: CPP Hearing

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Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:30 PM
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To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:29:30 PM
Subject: OAR: DDL: 7/29; Daily Star RE: CPP Hearing

GTG? Thanks.

Reporter's info:
Mark Boshnacki

INQUIRY: I am doing a story on the Pittsburgh hearing and just wanted to know how people got on the list of speakers. I'm guessing they had to sign up, how long they can speak for and if there are any othere qualifications.

RESPONSE: Information regarding dates and registration for the Proposed Clean Power Plan public hearings were posted in the Federal Register at:http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602-2373 and on EPA's website at:www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan Individuals wishing to pre-register to present oral testimony at the hearings could either submit an online form through EPA's website, or call or email EPA's designated contact listed in the Federal Register notice. Any interested party is allowed to register to speak at a public hearing and is given five minutes to present their testimony. Registration is not required to attend and listen to testimony but, given the large number of expected attendees, space will be available first-come, first-serve.

To: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Cc: AO OEAEE MEDIA RELATIONS[AO_OEAEE_MEDIA_RELATIONS@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 4:19:31 PM
Subject: Re: Media Present at CPP Hearing

Updates:
Voice of America
PBS Newshour
NYT
Wash Post
Gannett
Bloomberg
Greenwire
ICIS
ECT Coop
Environment America
Reuters
The Eagle
SNL Energy

Lunch break...

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

On Jul 29, 2014, at 9:20 AM, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Inside EPA -- Lee Logan
Argus - Michael Ball
Fox-- Chris Becker
Bloomberg BNA -- Andrew Childers
Law360 -- Erica Teichert
Argus -- Jessica Sandrgeroth
Alejandro Alvarez -- The Eagle
Amy Sisk -- Politico
Stephen Munro -- Bloomberg
Eric Wolff -- SNL
Teddy Schliffer -- NYT

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:38:13 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

I think you can say we're working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak. We expect to hear from about 1600 people over the course of the week.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Purchia, Liz
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Just thinking about this a bit more. Do you want to single out Pittsburgh, or just say that there are still opportunities for those who are interested to register to speak. Andrea confirms that they are not turning speakers away in Atlanta. - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Hull, George
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

I think that works, if they need a name you can use mine.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Purchia, Liz
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Thanks. Do you want me to send to the reporter and attribute to a senior agency spokesperson? - George

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:20 AM
To: Hull, George; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

We think we'll be able to accommodate everyone who registered to speak. We expect to hear from about 1600 people over the course of the week.

There are still speaking slots available Friday in Pittsburgh and people can register to speak in person at the hearing location.

http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule#register

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:16 AM
To: Purchia, Liz; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Flagging for your attention. Reporter asking about speakers being turned away from today's hearing. Deadline is noon. - George

From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

Hi,

I've been told by several groups that they were not able to get a time slot to testify during the CPP hearings being held today. Has the agency had to give cancellations to a lot of groups? Was there a particular way the agency prioritized the way it gave away time slots?

Please let me know ASAP. My deadline is noon. Thanks.

Best,

Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:26:37 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

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To: Press
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Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:20:18 PM
Subject: RE: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

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Press Secretary

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Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

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To: Press

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Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

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Cc: AO OEAEE MEDIA RELATIONS[AO_OEAEE_MEDIA_RELATIONS@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 1:20:48 PM
Subject: Media Present at CPP Hearing

Inside EPA -- Lee Logan
Argus - Michael Ball
Fox-- Chris Becker
Bloomberg BNA -- Andrew Childers
Law360 -- Erica Teichert
Argus -- Jessica Sandrgeroth
Alejandro Alvarez -- The Eagle
Amy Sisk -- Politico
Stephen Munro -- Bloomberg
Eric Wolff -- SNL
Teddy Schliffer -- NYT

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA, Office of Media Relations
Desk: 202.564.7873
Cell: 202.236.2426

To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Millett, John[Millett.John@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]
Cc: Abrams, Dan[Abrams.Dan@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:46:10 AM
Subject: FW: Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

-----Original Message-----
From: Rodney Elliott [mailto:elliott.rodney@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:34 AM
To: Spalding, Curt
Subject: Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

Vocus, Inc. (http://www.vocus.com/)

This story has been sent to you on behalf of elliott.rodney@epa.gov:

Concord hearing gives the public a chance to comment on EPA Clean Power Plan

(Published in print: Tuesday, July 29, 2014)

Because of climate change, New Hampshire's moose population is struggling – fighting a longer tick season and higher quantities of parasites – and over the past decade it has declined more than 40 percent, said Eric Orff, a New Hampshire wildlife biologist. That's why Orff said he supports the Environmental Protection Agency's recent proposal to cut carbon emissions.

“Tonight, I am speaking for the moose,” Orff said last night at the Concord Public Library during a hearing on the EPA's Clean Carbon Plan, which was released last month.

Orff was just one of several state residents to speak in favor of the rule for reasons ranging from cleaner air and fewer asthma attacks to longer ice fishing seasons, healthier oceans and beaches and thriving fish populations.

Organizers said the event – put on by several groups including Environment New Hampshire, League of Conservation Voters, Moms Clean Air Force and the Union of Concerned Scientists – was a chance to inform citizens and raise support for the EPA plan, which aims to reduce carbon emissions nationwide by 30 percent from 2005 levels.

“This is the most significant action proposed nationally on carbon reduction,” said Rob Werner, New Hampshire state director of the League of Conservation Voters, before the event. “We want to create an opportunity for people to comment on it . . . and to generate that support and indicate that to the EPA.”

This week the EPA is hosting four official public hearings across the country, in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., to hear feedback on its Clean Power Plan. No official EPA meeting will be held in New Hampshire. But at last night's hearing, an EPA official in attendance outlined the policy and told attendees how to file a comment with the agency.

The testimony was also recorded and a transcript will be submitted to the EPA as formal comment.

The agency is collecting comment on the draft rule until Oct. 16 and has already received more than 300,000 comments, said Cynthia Greene, the EPA representative at the hearing.

At the EPA's official hearing in Washington, D.C., tomorrow, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Thomas Burack will testify on behalf of the state. The state DES also plans to send in more detailed comments to the EPA in written form.

DES officials are still hopeful that New Hampshire's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade program, will allow the state to meet the proposed carbon emissions reductions outlined by the EPA. “We are still working through the numbers,” said Mike Fitzgerald of the state DES.

The EPA guidelines set state-specific carbon emission rate targets and outline a variety of ways for states to reach those goals, including energy efficiency programs, renewable energy standards, efficiency improvements to existing power plants, switching to natural gas or several other options.

The EPA will issue its final guidance in June 2015. The two-hour public hearing last night attracted more than 70 attendees.

Burr Tupper of Trout Unlimited urged the audience to support the carbon reduction plan to help protect against the effects of climate change. “The water temperatures are rising here in New Hampshire . . . trout and salmon are very sensitive to increases,” he said. “We have a rich heritage we need to protect.”

Betsy Kinsey, one of the event organizers, said recently she has begun noticing her childhood asthma acting up as summer days get hotter and more smoggy. “I never used to pay attention to poor air quality days,” she said. Now, she does.

No one at the hearing spoke out against the proposal, but a few offered concerns and others said more steps need to be taken.

Joel Huberman of Peterborough said the proposal puts too much emphasis on the use of natural gas – methane – that can be just as detrimental to the environment as coal.

Will Abbott of the The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests praised the EPA plan but said there is more to be done. This “gets us part of the way; there's a much longer road we have to ride,” he said. “We cannot sit back and say that's enough.”

http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12930005-95/concord-hearing-gives-the-public-a-chance-to-comment-on-epa-clean-power-plan

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http://www.vocus.com/

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Vocus, Inc.
12051 Indian Creek Ct.
Beltsville, MD 20705
U.S.A.

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:07:53 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by the National Biodiesel Board: Climate costs will jump without action, White House says — Inside the EPA climate rule hearings

By Alex Guillén | 7/29/14 6:05 AM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon and Andrew Restuccia

WHITE HOUSE — CLIMATE COSTS WILL JUMP WITHOUT ACTION: Failure to act on climate change could be a multi-billion-dollar mistake, the White House says in a report today marking its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country. The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Andrew Restuccia has the story: http://politico.pro/1uCONHp

— In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week. On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development. White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

SETTLE IN — INSIDE THE EPA CLIMATE RULE HEARINGS: An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings. Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third. Andrew Restuccia has more: http://politico.pro/1rUcg3o

Those speaking in D.C. today include: Sen. Ed Markey, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), National Mining Association President and CEO Hal Quinn, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, Electric Reliability Coordinating Council counsel and former EPA air chief Jeff Holmstead, Algae Biomass Organization Executive Director Matt Carr, American Wind Energy Association Senior Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs Tom Vinson, Hip Hop Caucus President and CEO Lennox Yearwood Jr., and Environment America Washington Director Anna Aurilio. Also: Richard Kennedy, who identifies himself as a retired CIA employee.

What's two minutes between friends? Yesterday's edition mistakenly said speakers at EPA's hearings get three minutes to talk; they actually get five.

You scream, ME screams, we all scream: Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and Ben & Jerry's are serving free ice cream out of trucks outside EPA headquarters today from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case you were wondering, B&J retired the flavor Fossil Fuel ("Sweet Cream Ice Cream with

Chocolate Cookie Pieces, Fudge Dinosaurs & a Fudge Swirl") back in 2010.

Good timing: Acting EPA air chief Janet McCabe is the is the star attraction at the American Gas Association's monthly Natural Gas Roundtable today. Details: http://bit.ly/1kPdQAQ

— Obama climate adviser Dan Utech says Colorado is "extremely well-positioned" to meet EPA's carbon cuts. Denver Post: http://dpo.st/1ArIHKu

— The Morning Consult talks to 15 state energy officials about EPA's climate rule: http://bit.ly/1pvGmWh

FERC WEIGHS IN ON EPA CLIMATE RULES: The Energy and Commerce Committee's energy and power panel hears from FERC commissioners this morning about EPA's proposed climate rules and grid reliability issues. Acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur will tell lawmakers that her agency is keeping an eye on EPA's climate rule when it comes to the electric grid's reliability, according to her prepared testimony. Since EPA's draft Clean Power Plan moved into the OMB interagency review process, FERC has been all over it, she says. FERC staff, for example, have emphasized that natural gas pipeline capacity should be looked at from a regional perspective rather than solely a national one because of existing constraints on the system — especially because EPA's proposal relies on greater natural gas-fired output. LaFleur also says that FERC staff have pressed the EPA to "not only allow but also encourage regional compliance." Moreover, her staff have given estimated construction timelines for electric transmission projects needed to bring remote renewable power to consumers.

— LaFleur also notes that FERC's work with EPA on the latter's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule provides a good example of how FERC can lend its reliability expertise as the EPA implements new environmental regulations like the Clean Power Plan. The "core tenets" of the two rules are different, but she points to the public forums with state regulators as well as regular conference calls with EPA, DOE and grid operators as efforts that presage the work that will likely happen with development of EPA climate rule.

But her colleagues made it clear that while some agency staff may be helping the EPA with its proposal, agency leaders without the gavel know very little about the activities. In response to a question about whether EPA had consulted them about the draft climate rule, LaFleur's colleague all wrote some variant of Commissioner Tony Clark's succinct response: "EPA did not consult with me." FERC Meanwhile, Commissioner John Norris' testimony doesn't mince words and takes a shot at Congress' legislative foot-dragging on energy and climate change. "I believe America can lead the world in the effort to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change. I have been hopeful for a number of years that Congress would step up to the challenge and pass legislation to begin that effort," he writes. "Unfortunately, to date, that has not occurred." Congress' failure to pass energy legislation and address climate change has "discouraged needed investment in technologies that can help us address climate change."

— For his part, FERC's chairman-in-waiting, Norman Bay, noted that his work as enforcement director meant that he had "not been involved in the EPA rulemaking." Commissioner responses to preliminary questions: http://1.usa.gov/1rLKwzu. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in Rayburn

2123.

HAPPY TUESDAY and welcome to Morning Energy. Send your energy news to aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexcguillen, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

U.S., EU TO TOUGHEN RUSSIA SANCTIONS: Via the New York Times: "The United States and Europe put aside their differences and agreed Monday to sharply escalate economic sanctions against Russia amid worries that Moscow is stepping up its intervention in Ukraine and may be setting the stage for an outright invasion. … [T]he package to be finalized Tuesday would go much further, matching and in some cases exceeding the actions Mr. Obama took on his own this month in blocking access to medium- and long-term American capital markets for some of Russia's largest and most global banking and energy companies. … They are also considering limits on technology sales to Russia's oil industry." NYT: http://nyti.ms/UyLXTj

** America's first commercially produced advanced biofuel, biodiesel, is here, now — growing and diversifying our transportation energy portfolio. In fact, biodiesel producers have delivered more than a billion gallons of advanced biofuel three years running. Learn more today at www.AmericasAdvancedBiofuel.com. **

THE DAY OF TOO MANY HEARINGS: In case today's EPA-palooza wasn't enough, there are no fewer than nine energy-related hearings on Capitol Hill today. Here's what you need to know about the most important ones, besides the FERC hearing covered above; Pros can get details on the rest in the calendar section below.

Climate change and the budget: The Budget Committee holds a hearing on the economic and budgetary consequences of climate change. Climate change poses both and environmental and economic threat, particularly if it goes unchecked, Chairwoman Patty Murray will say, according to remarks previewed for ME. "These costs are too important to ignore, and it's time for the Budget Committee to begin to assess the damage climate change will have on our budget and economy," she will say. "Failing to act now will only make it more difficult to solve this problem later, and will force us to divert resources away from other priorities. So, let me be clear on this point. Anyone who, like me, wants to tackle our long-term fiscal challenges fairly and responsibly, needs also to worry about the impacts of climate change." http://1.usa.gov/1rIt4vy. 10 a.m., Dirksen 608

Climate change threats: The Environment and Public Works Committee's clean air panel holds a hearing on the threats posed by climate change. The Hill hearing, chaired by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, is aimed at complementing the EPA hearings by offering up details on the dangers posed by climate change — and thus by fossil fuels. http://1.usa.gov/1nBG6HU. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 406

Accelerating BLM permitting: The Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing on the energy production permitting process on federal lands at the Bureau of Land Management. The hearing is another chance for Chairwoman Mary Landrieu and other panel members up for reelection to hammer the administration about speeding up energy permitting

ahead of the August recess. BLM Director Neil Kornze will be on hand, along with energy industry representatives. http://1.usa.gov/1rKvp7V. 2:30 p.m., Dirksen 366

ADMINISTRATION PUTS HOLD ON CONDENSATE OIL EXPORT REQUESTS, FOR NOW — REPORT: Reuters reports: "The U.S. Commerce Department has put on hold at least two companies' requests for permission to sell lightly processed crude abroad, effectively stalling an industry push to export an expanding glut of oil amid the U.S. shale revolution, sources said. … This may also give the agency more time to put together some form of comprehensive public guidance about what kind of oil can or cannot be exported, answering industry's growing cry for clarity. It is unclear when such a document may be finalized, but several sources said they think it could occur within weeks." Reuters: http://reut.rs/1pxSp5g

NWF CUTS SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS: The National Wildlife Federation cut several positions on Monday, including some senior staff positions, the environmental group said. "The changes today will help National Wildlife Federation focus more resources on the ground protecting wildlife, conserving habitat, and connecting Americans — especially children — with nature, as we work to rebuild the nation's conservation movement," new NWF President and CEO Collin O'Mara said in a statement. "We remain fully committed to working with members of both parties to make measurable progress, giving voice to our 49 state affiliates and 4 million members, supporters and all who care about the future of wildlife." The group would not disclose which staffers or positions had been cut or why cuts were being made.

EPA SHOULD DO MORE TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM OIL, GAS WELLS — GAO: EPA needs to do more to ensure underground drinking water sources are protected from oil and gas injections wells, the Government Accountability Office says in a new report. The 103-page report notes EPA and state regulators face budgetary limitations, but faults the agency's oversight of the nation's 172,000 wells used to enhance production or for disposal. The burgeoning oil and gas industry, the report adds, present new problems for EPA, including increased risk of seismic activity and increasing pressure on geologic formations. "EPA is not consistently conducting two key oversight and enforcement activities for class II programs," the report says. EPA "does not consistently conduct annual on-site state program evaluations" because of a lack of resources, and EPA "may not be able to enforce all state program requirements," the report concludes. GAO recommends EPA direct a working group to review emerging risks from class II wells; revise program guidance as needed to create effective oversight; and complete a national database, among other things. Read: http://1.usa.gov/1qHWV7Y

POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL HAS HIGH SOCIAL COST — CAP: Coal extracted from the Powder River Basin and burned releases carbon pollution that causes a social cost of $62 per short ton, more than four times what the coal sells for domestically, according to a paper out today from the Center for American Progress. Based on 2012 production levels, that means there was a social cost of $19 billion from PRB coal, CAP writes. The coal produced from the PRB is also undervalued by the government's leasing process, CAP says, meaning the treasury is missing out on larger royalty payments — a complaint lodged by others, including the GAO and Interior's inspector general. CAP's report: http://bit.ly/1zoAyoI

GASOLINE PRICES CONTINUE TO SLIDE: National gasoline prices have continued to slide to $3.52 per gallon, the lowest average since March 17, according to AAA. Despite international tensions, gasoline prices have dropped every day in July, and are 16 cents lowers than a month ago and 11 cents lower than this date last year, the group said.

MOVER, SHAKER: The NRC has picked Maureen Wylie as its new chief financial officer Wylie previously spent 10 years at NOAA, including eight years at that agency's CFO, and before that spent almost two decades as a civilian Army employee. She replaces James Dyer, who retired from the NRC in May.

FLOOR WATCH — HOUSE TAKES UP ESA BILL: The House is slated to take up later today H.R. 4315, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act. The bill, which attracted one Democratic vote in committee, requires the Interior and Commerce Departments to post online information used to determining ESA listings, and to report to Congress on the funds the administration spends litigating ESA lawsuits.

QUICK HITS

— Iraq has convinced a U.S. judge to order the seizure of $100 million worth of oil in a tanker anchored off Galveston because the oil was allegedly pumped from illegal Kurdish wells. Bloomberg: http://bloom.bg/1pz5prB

— EPA says the biggest Western coal-fired power plant, the Navajo Generating Station, must produce a third less electricity by 2020 and could close by 2044. AP: http://abcn.ws/X6p6Ag

— Emails between PG&E and California regulators show close ties, newly released documents show. AP: http://bit.ly/1k51JkJ

— Iowa Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst says she doesn't have a problem attending a fundraiser co-hosted by oil-related PACs. WHOtv: http://bit.ly/1pnkuPC

— Environmental groups, including Greenpeace, 350.org and WildEarth Guardians, write to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to cancel a coal lease sale scheduled for Wednesday. Letter: http://politico.pro/1pyHkRA

— General Mills is instituting new methods to combat climate change by reducing emissions at suppliers and contractors, among other things. Los Angeles: http://lat.ms/1oDcvyR

— Nicolas Cage was spotted in D.C. while filming a movie about a congressman post-BP spill. DCist: http://bit.ly/UH91ip

— The Charleston Gazette's Ken Ward Jr. has some criticism of Natalie Tennant's pro-coal ad: http://bit.ly/WKm053

HAPPENING TODAY

8 a.m. — DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office holds its seventh annual conference. Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson and Federal Environmental Executive Kate Brandt speak. http://1.usa.gov/1t21D1g. Washington Convention Center

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's energy and mineral resources panel holds a hearing on two geothermal bills and a renewable energy bill. http://1.usa.gov/1usZmgf. Longworth 1334

10 a.m. — The House Natural Resources Committee's public lands panel holds a hearing on several bills. http://1.usa.gov/1pfEkcx. Longworth 1324

10 a.m. — The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's economic growth panel holds a hearing on allegations of corruption at the Export-Import Bank. http://1.usa.gov/UsprLK. Rayburn 2154

10 a.m. — The House Science Committee's research panel holds a hearing on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. http://1.usa.gov/1rUa8aL. Rayburn 2318

10 a.m. — Moms and their children gather for "Play-In(s) for Climate Action." Federal Triangle

10:30 a.m. — The Senate Commerce Committee's ocean panel holds a hearing on the RESTORE Act and issues with Gulf restoration post-BP spill. http://1.usa.gov/1ntVMgZ. Russell 253

1:30 p.m. — United for a Healthy Anacostia River and the District Department of the Environment hold a boat tour of the Anacostia River Sediment Project. 1900 M Street SE

2 p.m. — The Woodrow Wilson Center holds an event on national security and climate change. White House adviser Alice Hill participates. http://bit.ly/1opfOIr. Ronald Reagan Building

6:30 p.m. — The American Council for Capital Formation holds a policy event with Sen. John Hoeven and Reps. G.K. Butterfield, Cynthia Lummis, Eddie Bernice Johnson and Reid Ribble. Florida House on Capitol Hill, 1 Second St. NE

THAT'S ALL FOR ME. Have a great day.

POLITICO presents Morning Money Breakfast Briefing: Join POLITICO's Chief Economic Correspondent Ben White as he takes his daily newsletter Morning Money live interviewing Tim Massad, the chairman of U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on the intersection of Washington and Wall Street. Find out more and RSVP at politi.co/1zdixcI, or join the conversation on Twitter using #MorningMoney.

** You wouldn't invest your life savings in just one stock. So why would America risk everything on a single transportation fuel? No matter how much oil we produce or where we produce it, having only one source to power our cars, trucks, trains and barges makes us vulnerable to a volatile global market.

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Stories from POLITICO Pro

White House: Climate costs will jump without action

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule

White House: Climate costs will jump without action back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/29/14 6:00 AM EDT

Failure to act on climate change could be a multibillion-dollar mistake, the White House said in a report Tuesday that marked its latest effort to rally support for President Barack Obama's climate agenda, just as crucial EPA hearings kick off around the country.

The cost of mitigating the effects of climate change increases by 40 percent for every decade that policymakers delay taking significant action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, which was written by the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

The report comes on the same day that the EPA begins a series of public hearings on its greenhouse gas regulation for existing power plants, the centerpiece of Obama's climate change agenda. The proposed rule has come under assault from Republicans, some moderate Democrats and industry groups who worry that it will damage the economy and kill thousands of jobs.

But the White House is working diligently to undercut those criticisms, arguing that its climate change policies will not only improve the environment but also give the U.S. a long-term economic advantage.

The new report warns that delaying action on climate change comes with a heavy price tag. A delay that causes an emissions rise of 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, rather than 2 degrees "could increase economic damages by approximately 0.9 percent of global output."

That's about equal to $150 billion in damage to the United States economy, the report says.

"Our report is very much a motivation for the types of actions the United States has taken in recent years as well as engaging with our global partners — because acting today will save us money, save us time and help advance a wide range of objectives," Jason Furman, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters.

The report analyzed existing research on the costs of inaction on climate change. Furman said

the Council of Economic Advisers came up with the 40 percent figure by reviewing 16 studies. The White House said the report's estimates are conservative.

"I should say that the technique we used, if anything, would lead us to understate the cost of delay," Furman said.

The White House also made the case that implementing policies like EPA's climate regulation is like taking out an environmental insurance policy.

"[C]limate policy can be thought of as 'climate insurance' taken out against the most severe and irreversible potential consequences of climate change," the report says.

In addition to Tuesday's report, the administration is unveiling two other climate change-related initiatives this week.

On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz will unveil new steps to reduce methane emissions for natural gas development.

Moniz will announce "a series of executive actions, partnerships and stakeholder commitments to continue to make progress in modernizing the nation's natural gas transmission and distribution systems, which will have the benefit of reducing methane emissions," according to Dan Utech, Obama's climate and energy adviser.

Tuesday marks the last of five roundtable meetings with industry, environmental, labor and other groups aimed at improving natural gas infrastructure and reducing downstream methane emissions. The announcement follows up on a wide-ranging methane strategy the White House unveiled earlier this year.

White House adviser John Podesta also said the Obama administration would be releasing new data aimed at making "our agricultural sector and our food supply more resilient in the face of climate change."

Podesta added that companies like IBM and Microsoft would be making announcements "about how they can build the tools necessary for our agricultural community to respond to the changes in weather patterns that the country is going to experience." The announcement is part of a broader White House climate change data initiative.back

EPA foes, friends set to sound off on climate rule back

By Andrew Restuccia | 7/28/14 5:51 PM EDT

Get comfortable.

An estimated 1,600 people are slated to sound off to the EPA on its proposed climate change rule for existing power plants this week at a series of marathon public hearings.

Scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists and industry officials will line up at the hearings to deliver five-minute statements on the merits or shortfalls of the EPA's plans to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power generators by nearly a third.

The grueling 11-hour sessions, which will be held over two days in Washington, Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh, aren't likely to bridge the massive gap between the Republicans and industry groups that hate the rule and the liberals and environmentalists who love it.

Instead, expect both sides to dig in their heels, polishing off long-standing talking points about how the regulation is likely to either destroy the economy or save the planet.

It's difficult to draw any broad conclusions from the hearings about how the average person feels about the regulation because many of those who will testify are closely associated with groups that have taken stands for or against the proposed carbon restrictions. Environmental and industry groups have both hired buses to send members to the hearings in droves. Polls show that the majority of the public supports the rule.

The hearings are shaping up to be something of a spectacle, with many groups planning splashy events aimed at standing out in the crowd.

The Koch-backed group Americans for Prosperity, for example, is holding rallies in Atlanta and Denver on Tuesday. AFP President Tim Phillips, who will testify at the hearing, will speak at the rally in Atlanta, along with Kentucky Coal Association President Bill Bissett.

Unsurprisingly, the coal industry will have a major presence at the hearings. Officials with the industry group American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity are scheduled to testify at all four hearings, and the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and the Colorado Mining Association are each busing miners to the rallies in their states. The United Mine Workers of America is holding a rally in opposition to the rule on Thursday in Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is slated to speak at Wednesday's hearing in Washington, D.C. He'll then hold a press conference with members of the Congressional Coal Caucus and Jimmy Rose, a former coal miner who rose to prominence in conservative circles after singing the song "Coal Keeps the Lights On" on the reality show "America's Got Talent."

McConnell is facing a tight reelection bid in Kentucky, the nation's third-largest coal producer, and he has emerged as one of the most vocal critics of the rule. He has authored a bill to kill the regulation and he regularly warns in Senate floor speeches that it would destroy the coal industry.

Other lawmakers scheduled to testify at the hearings: Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, the Republican Senate candidate from West Virginia. After speaking at Tuesday's hearing in Washington, Markey will hold a press conference with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, a Johns Hopkins University medical professor and representatives from the Latino Victory Project, Green Latinos and the Hip Hop Caucus.

But EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday she won't be attending any of the hearings. "That would be pretty unprecedented," McCarthy told reporters. "And it's not really about me. It's about listening to people coming in."

And the rhetoric is already heating up.

Republican Rep. Mike Kelly compared EPA's tactics to "terrorism" Monday at a Heritage Foundation forum on the EPA.

Kelly paraphrased the infamous words of former EPA Regional Administrator Al Armendariz, who resigned two years ago after a video showed him saying that his enforcement philosophy was "kind of like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw and they would crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years."

"You talk about terrorism," Kelly said. "You can do it in a lot of different ways."

Greens are also planning events surrounding the hearings.

The Moms Clean Air Force is organizing "play-ins" with moms and their children outside the four hearings this week. The events are aimed at underscoring the public health benefits of the rule, particularly for children.

Environmental groups sought to project a united front in support of the rule ahead of the hearings.

"It's the biggest step we've ever taken against climate change, which today is already harming our health and environment," Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke said on a call with reporters Monday, referring to EPA's climate rule.

"We can't wait any longer to protect ourselves and future generations," Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt added.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said he expects "busloads" of the group's members to attend the hearings. And Beinecke said she expects doctors, farmers and mayors to attend, as well as NRDC members.

While several environmental groups have said they hope to push for improvements to the rule, expect greens to focus on their broad support for the regulation.

"Our focus at these hearings is going to be that this is an absolutely essential step forward," Beinecke said.

*Amy R. Sisk and Erica Martinson contributed to this report.*back

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To: Bailey, KevinJ[Bailey.KevinJ@epa.gov]
From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 1:01:59 AM
Subject: Re: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Thanks kevin. The requested time can be accommodated.

Mary

From: Bailey, KevinJ
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 8:53:45 PM
To: Myers, Kevin
Cc: Henigin, Mary; OAQPS WOPS
Subject: Re: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Thanks, Kevin.

And all -
I've been talking with senator Sanders' staff this evening. They would like for him to testify around 1130am. He will also need access to the courtyard.

I know it's not easy accommodating these very late comers; anything you can do to work them in would be greatly appreciated. We didn't know until this evening that he was interested in testifying.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2014, at 8:20 PM, "Myers, Kevin" <Myers.Kevin@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks. I will add it to the list of those arriving to the east courtyard tomorrow.

Sent from my Windows Phone

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Sent: 7/29/2014 6:54 PM
To: Henigin, Mary
Cc: Myers, Kevin; OAQPS WOPS
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> Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:00 AM
> To: Bill Raney
> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
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> Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 3:01 PM
> To: Bill Raney
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> The EPA's website for the rulemaking, which includes the proposal and information about the hearings, can be found at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.
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> Q: Will I have to go through any security measures in order to access the public hearing venue?
> A: Yes, visitors must go through a metal detector, sign in with the security desk and will need to show photo identification to enter the building.
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> Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.
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> Q: What types of parking is available around this venues? How do I access the venue by metro?
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> Q: My group would like to rent or reserve a space at the public hearing venue, how do we go ahead and do that?
> A: Nonfederal governmental entities are not allowed to reserve space at federal buildings, although if you would like a table available in the atrium/hall to hand out materials we will do our best to accommodate that request. Tables will be available on a first come first served basis.
>
> Q: How long do I have to speak?
> A: Each speaker is given five minutes per public hearing to speak.
>
> Q: Can I register on the day of the hearing to speak?
> A: Yes, you may register the day of the hearing to speak, although we cannot guarantee what time you will speak. Even if the speaking slots fill up, we will be accepting written comments at the hearing. (Please see below for information on how to submit comments to the docket).
>
> Q: If I register before the hearing what do I need to do the day of the hearing?
> A: You will need to check in at the registration desk prior to the time you are scheduled to speak.
>
> Q: Can I submit written comments at the hearing site?
> A: We recommend that you submit your written comments to the docket. The docket number for this rule is: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 (for the Clean Power Plan for Existing Sources) and EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0630 (for the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources) and information on how to submit written comments is listed below. The public comment period will be open for 120 days from the time the rule is published in the Federal Register. We will be taking comments that are submitted the day of the hearing and will ensure that those get submitted to the docket.
>
> Q: Is there a way I can participate in the hearing remotely? For example, can I call in to provide my comments?
> A: I am sorry there is no way to participate in the hearing remotely. Although, you are able to submit written comments to:
> * Submit a comment using this online form at http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule\

>
> * Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744.
> * Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 (for the Clean Power Plan for Existing Sources) and EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0630 (for the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.
> * Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.
> Q: Are video cameras allowed at the public hearings?
> A: Yes, video cameras are allowed at the public hearings.
> -----Original Message-----
> From: drupal_admin@epa.gov [mailto:drupal_admin@epa.gov] On Behalf Of William B. Raney
> Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:56 PM
> To: Garrett, Pamela
> Subject: Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> Submitted on 06/18/2014 2:56PM
> Submitted values are:
>
> Name: William B. Raney
> Organization: West Virginia Coal Association
> Email: braney@wvcoal.com
> Phone: 304-342-4153
> Hearing Location: Washington, DC
> Preferred Time Slot: 9:00-9:30 a.m.
> Alternate Time Slot: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
> Accessibility Requests:
>

To: Bailey, KevinJ[Bailey.KevinJ@epa.gov]
From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:55:18 PM
Subject: Re: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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> Accessibility Requests:
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From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:27:57 PM
Subject: Re: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Hi, no delayed response at all - I will forward to Kevin Bailey cc: you for response.
Thank you
Mary

From: Myers, Kevin
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:14:54 PM
To: Henigin, Mary
Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Do we know if he is driving in? I will update the VIP list for tomorrow regardless.
I apologize for any delayed reponses. My new windows phone only decides to sync when it wants to.

Thanks

Sent from my Windows Phone

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Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:56 PM
To: Garrett, Pamela
Subject: Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Submitted on 06/18/2014 2:56PM
Submitted values are:

Name: William B. Raney
Organization: West Virginia Coal Association
Email: braney@wvcoal.com
Phone: 304-342-4153
Hearing Location: Washington, DC
Preferred Time Slot: 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Alternate Time Slot: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Accessibility Requests:

To: Bailey, KevinJ[Bailey.KevinJ@epa.gov]
Cc: Dougherty, Joseph-J[Dougherty.Joseph-J@epa.gov]
From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 6:50:09 PM
Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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From: Garrett, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:47:14 PM
To: Henigin, Mary
Subject: FW: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

FYI

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Cc: Hamilton, Mike
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Subject: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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Hearing Location: Washington, DC
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Alternate Time Slot: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Accessibility Requests:

To: Dougherty, Joseph-J[Dougherty.Joseph-J@epa.gov]
From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 1:00:19 PM
Subject: Fw: Short, Toby (DC) Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

From: Garrett, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 8:50:07 AM
To: Henigin, Mary
Cc: Ashley, Jackie; Noonan, Jenny; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Hackel, Angela; OAQPS WOPS
Subject: Short, Toby (DC) Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

Toby Short

Duke Energy

202-997-6279

Toby.short@duke-energy.com

Can you give me a timeframe to let him know when to show up? Thank you Mary!

From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 7:04 AM
To: Garrett, Pamela
Subject: Re: Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

K - thanks Pam.

Mary

From: Garrett, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:59:39 AM
To: Henigin, Mary; Ashley, Jackie; Noonan, Jenny; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Hackel, Angela; OAQPS WOPS
Subject: RE: Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

I'll ask Ms. Broome to send it as soon as possible. Thank you.

From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:58 AM
To: Garrett, Pamela; Ashley, Jackie; Noonan, Jenny; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Hackel, Angela; OAQPS WOPS
Subject: Re: Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

Hi Pam, we'll do our best - can you send the person'4 info?

Thank you
Mary

From: Garrett, Pamela
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:49:15 AM
To: Ashley, Jackie; Henigin, Mary
Subject: Possibility of getting someone in on Wednesday.

Morning Ladies:

Please see the note below. Let me know what you would like me to tell her. Thanks.

From: Broome, Shannon S. [mailto:shannon.broome@kattenlaw.com]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 6:18 PM
To: Garrett, Pamela
Subject:

Pam – is there any possibility of squeezing in a speaker for the Wed. Clean Power Plan hearing in DC? He can show up any time. Sorry for the late notice and I know you are jammed but I just found out about the request.

Best regards,

SHANNON S. BROOME
Partner
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

San Francisco Bay Area: 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 700 / Oakland, CA 94612-3572

p / (415) 293-5818 f / (415) 704-3151 c / (510) 816-1710

(Please note new SF direct dial number)

Washington DC: 2900 K Street NW, North Tower - Suite 200 / Washington, DC 20007-5118
p / (202) 625-3715 f / (202) 295-1125
shannon.broome@kattenlaw.com / www.kattenlaw.com

CIRCULAR 230 DISCLOSURE: Pursuant to Regulations Governing Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service, any tax advice contained herein is not intended or written to be used and cannot be used by a taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer.

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========== CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic mail message and any attached files contain information intended for the exclusive use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is proprietary, privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any viewing, copying, disclosure or distribution of this information may be subject to legal restriction or sanction. Please notify the sender, by electronic mail or telephone, of any unintended recipients and delete the original message without making any copies.
========== NOTIFICATION: Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP is an Illinois limited liability partnership that has elected to be governed by the Illinois Uniform Partnership Act (1997).
==========

To: Henigin, Mary[Henigin.Mary@epa.gov]
From: Myers, Kevin
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:14:54 PM
Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Do we know if he is driving in? I will update the VIP list for tomorrow regardless.
I apologize for any delayed reponses. My new windows phone only decides to sync when it wants to.

Thanks

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: 7/29/2014 6:10 PM
To: Myers, Kevin
Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:59:21 PM
To: Campbell, Jeff
Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:50:08 PM
To: Bailey, KevinJ
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Accessibility Requests:

To: Febbo, carol[febbo.carol@epa.gov]
From: Hackel, Angela
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 12:18:36 PM
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Thk:)

From: Febbo, carol
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 7:27:26 AM
To: Hackel, Angela
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Good luck today! I know it will be successful. Carol

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 30, 2014, at 6:02 PM, "Hackel, Angela" <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for letting me know. Feel better soon;)

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Cc: Garvin, Shawn; Ashley, Jackie; Linn, Emily; Kreider, Andrew
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To: Wayland, Robertj[Wayland.Robertj@epa.gov]
From: Hackel, Angela
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 3:03:20 AM
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Ok, thanks for letting me know.

Angela

From: Wayland, Robertj
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:58:31 PM
To: Hackel, Angela
Subject: RE: Tomorrow

Angela –

I'm meeting some folks attending the hearing for breakfast at 7:00 am, so I will not make 7:15, but I will be there by 8-8:15 am as originally planned.

thanx!

bob

Robert J. Wayland, Ph.D.

Leader, Energy Strategies Group

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Sector Policies and Programs Division

Mail Code D243-01

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Office: (919) 541-1045

Cell: (919) 306-2290

Fax: (919) 541-5450

Email: wayland.robertj@epa.gov

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DRAFT/Deliberative Document - FOIA Exempt

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To: OAQPS SPPD PSG[OAQPS_SPPD_PSG@epa.gov]
From: Conner, Lisa
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 2:02:41 PM
Subject: Emailing: Mitch McConnell's Musical Attack on EPA - NationalJournal.com.htm

I wonder if he sang a song for our D.C. hearing yesterday??

NJ Daily

Mitch McConnell's Musical Attack on EPA

The Senate minority leader recruited a reality-TV singer to fight the climate rules.

By Jason Plautz

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(Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)

This week's public hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan have the usual roster of speakers: environmentalists, industry bigwigs, and politicians looking to make stump speeches for or against the rule. But it's likely only one has the résumé of Jimmy Rose: Iraq veteran, coal miner, and third-place finisher on the reality show *America's Got Talent*.

The Pineville, Ky., native will speak Wednesday at an EPA hearing in Washington as a guest of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell before heading to the Capitol to perform his signature song "Coal Keeps the Lights On." The song carries an obvious—and for the Kentucky senator a politically potent—message. Rose's lyrics invoke red-meat imagery ("tires on the truck and a

sundress on my baby girl") to underscore the importance of coal jobs to Appalachia, before admonishing "plumb-down crazy" Washington for anti-coal policies. McConnell has appeared with Rose before and even referenced Rose's song last fall in trying to introduce a bill that would have blocked the EPA rules.

Rose spoke to *National Journal* about the message he hopes to bring to EPA, how he wrote "Coal Keeps the Lights On," and whether EPA is dodging criticism of its climate plan. Here are excerpts from the interview.

What message are you bringing to the EPA hearings?

I hope they let me sing, but I'll get to sing my song at the Capitol [in a press conference with McConnell]. It's going to be clear and straight to the point about what they're doing to us here in Appalachia. I want to put a face on what they're doing and the restrictions they're putting in place. This war on coal, it's different if you're not from around here in coal country. I want to show them in some way what they're doing to us. It's a real honor to be a part of this with [McConnell]. We've done several events with him. He's fighting this battle, and it's an honor to be with Mitch and to represent coal country as a whole.

McConnell has said that EPA ought to be holding a hearing in coal country. Do you agree?

It's easy for them to hold these hearings outside the real affected area. They don't have to look at the people, they don't have to look at the poverty-stricken communities. They don't have to make up some excuse to make them feel better. It's a sad thing they won't drive through the towns and communities and look at the schools. This is a war on coal, I feel strong about that. I think they should have to come around and listen to the people they're affecting. Any opportunity I get, I'll jump on it to be heard, but it's sad they won't come to the combat zone.

How did your song "Coal Keeps the Lights On" come about?

I wrote that song several years back, even before I was on *America's Got Talent*. I wrote that in support of my people and my hometown. The people who are losing their homes and their jobs and have to move away just to find work. To me, it's being a voice for my own people. I personalize it when I talk about the bobcats and the mountain lions [local high school mascots], so it's who I am and my grass roots. I wrote it out of anger and out of resentment and from my personal experience. I've worked in the ground; I know how it feels.

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Samantha, Student

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Why do you think EPA should hear the song?

If I can sing it to them, I hope they'd truly listen to the lyrics and the true meaning of what I'm trying to say. I think they'd get a sense of the repercussions of the decisions they're making. I'm all for saving the environment, I'm for saving the future, but I think we've got to save us first. I don't know if my song will affect any decisions, but hopefully it will make them consider the impact of their actions.

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To: OAQPS SPPD[OAQPS_SPPD@epa.gov]
From: Johnson, Tanya
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 6:31:39 PM
Subject: fyi: News Clips & PM News Clips - Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Concerned citizens bring a personal touch to EPA power plant emission hearings – ClimateWire

Witnesses rumble over EPA power rule's consequences – Greenwire PM

Coal deemed too 'dirty' for America heads overseas – Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Some lawmakers see limited risk from climate change as White House plows ahead with carbon rules – ClimateWire

Proliferation of top-job vacancies and no end in sight – Greenwire PM

EPA regulation hearings draw interest groups to Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

W.Va. leaders to attend coal rally in Pa. – Seattle Post-Intelligencer

EPA R&D office struggles to define its mission in climate initiative – Greenwire PM

Senate panel clashes on cost vs. benefit of mitigation – E&E Daily News

Climate change is among top national security concerns -- experts – ClimateWire

DOE efforts to curb methane not enough -- advocates – Greenewire PM

Trees soak up contaminants, provide $7B in U.S. health benefits a year -- study – Greenwire PM

Concerned citizens bring a personal touch to EPA power plant emission hearings

Nathanael Massey, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

The first day of public listening sessions on U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) brought out all the usual suspects: industry groups lambasting the agency's overreach, environmentalists citing long lists of climate impacts and policymakers staking out battle lines on an already politically charged issue.

But the listening sessions, which continue through tomorrow in four cities around the country, also made room for voices less familiar to the D.C. speaking circuit. Many, and at times a majority, of those who testified before a panel of EPA staff in Washington, D.C., yesterday were ordinary citizens, their testimony composed primarily of their own thoughts, experiences and observations.

In their own words, these speakers painted a picture of climate change not as it is usually understood, as a global phenomenon counted in displaced populations or fractions of a degree Fahrenheit, but localized, in the experiences of dozens of individuals.

They recounted struggles with asthma, anxiety over the future and frustration with the ongoing policy gridlock in Washington. They described personal observations on the climate, the environment and extreme weather, often illustrating these observations with anecdotes from their own lives.

One of the speakers, a tree farmer named Chris Durrer, talked about the 7.5-acre plot of land he and his sister tend to in central Virginia. His grandparents had farmed the land for nearly half a century, he said, before passing it on to the younger generation.

He described how first his grandparents and then he and his sister had watched the land change as the climate shifted over the decades. He talked about the 4½-year drought that had all but drained the nearby Green River, putting his own work and that of their neighbors in peril.

"That was at least a 100-year drought," Durrer said. "If the chances of that happening are increasing, that's something we have to be concerned about."

View from the ground

The majority of the day's comments came from parties sympathetic to EPA's newly proposed rule, a fact for which groups like the Sierra Club -- whose members came out in force -- no doubt deserve some credit. Even many of the speakers who voiced concern about the rule prefaced their comments with an acknowledgement of EPA's need to act on climate change and restricted their critiques to specific aspects of the rule or concerns that their particular industry's needs had not been considered.

In all, the tone of the event was far different from Senate and House committee hearings from the past few weeks, in which partisan rhetoric -- and at times, tempers -- ran high.

While strong positions were voiced -- the heads of several major industrial groups made an appearance, as well as high-level officials from green groups -- the format of the hearings, which gave speakers only a few minutes to testify and interspersed opponents and proponents of the rule, kept the proceedings going at a more muted volume.

As a result, the testimonies that appeared to most engage the attending panelists -- particularly toward the end of the 11-hour listening session -- were the personal anecdotes shared by ordinary citizens.

That held true even when the comments turned critical. Delaware resident Coralie Pryde chastised the CPP for its emphasis on natural gas, whose climate and local impacts, she said, remain too little understood.

"As a child raised outside a small coal mining town in Wyoming ... I would go up to the Pine Hill region to get out of the desert, and the air was so clear you could see for 100 miles. You could see forever," she said. "Now the mountains behind Pine Hill have become the site for almost 1,500 wells. That crystal air has turned as smoggy as Los Angeles."

One comment in particular earned wide smiles from the attending staff, when West Virginia resident Marie Stella thanked the agency for working, albeit belatedly, on an issue she said is at the forefront of her community's attention.

"You have to keep doing what you're doing, because, for us, there's no one on our local level that will," she said. "Please keep it up."

Email: nmassey@eenews.netTop of the Document

Witnesses rumble over EPA power rule's consequences

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter – Greenwire PM

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

A House panel today tussled over whether U.S. EPA's premier greenhouse gas rule is an illegal effort by the Obama administration to reshape the electric power system or a stimulus for new industries.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), who heads a House Science, Space and Technology subcommittee, blasted the existing power plant proposal as a bid by EPA to "take control of our nation's electric system without any legal or scientific justification."

"The rule has the potential to shut down power plants across the nation, raise energy prices and threaten energy security," she said.

The draft rule -- which is the subject of listening sessions this week in three states and the District of Columbia -- relies on four "building blocks" to set state standards, and then allows states to satisfy them in any way they choose. The building blocks consider states' ability to improve heat rates at coal plants, shift base load away from coal and toward existing natural gas combined-cycle units, and boost zero-carbon electricity and energy efficiency.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said that by allowing states to determine how they prefer to meet the standard her agency has provided substantial flexibility, but utilities note that states have little option but to follow the building blocks or exceed some of them to compensate for skipping others. A few opportunities for carbon mitigation are not included in the blocks, including upgrades to transmission infrastructure.

But Lummis, whose coal-producing state would be among the greatest economic losers from the rule according to a report released last week, said that EPA's "flexibility" does little but leave states "holding the bag on an expensive overhaul of our electric system to reach theoretical and unproven targets."

Jeff Holmstead of Bracewell & Giuliani said the rule also plays fast and loose with the Clean Air Act's definition for best systems of emissions reduction -- the method by which it assumes facilities can reduce their emissions.

"Anyone who believes in the rule of law should be troubled by EPA's proposal," he said.

Holmstead said the statute requires EPA to set emissions standards on a site-by-site basis -- something that would have required the federal agency to do much more on-site analysis and that would have led to emissions limits that could have been achieved by each facility inside its own fence line.

Instead, the agency has claimed a kind of "roving mandate to do whatever it thinks is best," he said -- including requiring fossil fuel-invested utilities to fund a variety of systemwide programs that have nothing to do with reducing emissions at their smokestacks.

Charles McConnell, executive director of the Energy & Environment Initiative at Rice University and a former assistant secretary for fossil energy at the Energy Department, called the rule "all pain and no gain," a program that "certainly isn't impactful environmental policy."

The rule would have almost no impact on climate change, he argued, because its effect on global emissions would be tiny. But it would drive up costs and sabotage development of carbon capture and storage technology by moving the U.S. power grid away from the new coal-fired power that would be a prerequisite for CCS. This would put international efforts to tackle emissions further out of reach, he said.

"The targets that have been set are all about finding a mechanism to eliminate coal and ultimately natural gas from our energy mix, and require renewables to be deployed," he said.

The rule seeks to limit emissions from a sector that is responsible for 40 percent of U.S. CO2.

Environmentalists note that without strong utility sector emissions limits, it would be impossible for the U.S. to meet its international commitments to curb greenhouse gases.

McConnell charged that EPA had given short shrift to its obligation to involve the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and DOE in crafting its regulations -- despite their expertise in grid reliability and CCS development.

EPA's consultation process was a "box-checking exercise to show that interagency collaboration occurred when it really didn't," he said, and EPA had incorporated DOE input with "reluctant acceptance."

Some FERC commissioners have asked for a more formal role in the rulemaking process (*E&E Daily*, July 29).

Gregory Sopkin of Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP argued that the rule's main impact would be on ratepayers because combined-cycle natural gas units would cost more to operate than coal-fired generation does.

But David Cash, commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, said that his commonwealth's experience with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative showed that reductions could come with benefits for consumers as efficiency lowers rates. It could also help grow the economy, he said, and help guard against extreme weather events that can prove much more costly.

"Businesses are already concerned and are already making plans to deal with climate change," he said. "And we see huge economic opportunities to address this problem in terms of clean-energy development."

Opponents of the rule are underestimating industry's ability to find cost-effective means of incorporating new emissions restraints, Cash said. "There seems to be a lack of confidence that our private sector can step up."

Twitter: @chemnipot | Email: jchemnick@eenews.netTop of the Document

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Coal deemed too 'dirty' for America heads overseas

Outlet Full Name: Atlanta Journal-Constitution – Online

News Text: Today and tomorrow, the Environmental Protection Agency will hold field hearings about its strict new proposals for power plants in Atlanta, one of just four regional sites around the country to host such a hearing. Interested parties that support or oppose the new rules will offer testimony. And then the EPA will do whatever it wants to do proceed toward issuing a final rule.

As I've explained before, the economics of this new rule are bad, and the environmental benefits aren't

even clear-cut. One reason for the latter is that the likely result of reducing coal use here is the increased export of coal abroad -- to countries with power plants that probably will use it less efficiently and thus will create more carbon emissions. This is the logical outcome, and now there's evidence it's the actual outcome, too, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Newport News, Va.:

"Coal from Appalachia rumbles into this port city, 150 railroad cars at a time, bound for the belly of the massive cargo ship Prime Lily. The ship soon sets sail for South America, its 80,000 tons of coal destined for power plants and factories, an export of American energy -- and pollution.

"In the U.S., this coal and the carbon dioxide it will eventually release into the atmosphere are some of the unwanted leftovers of an America going greener. With the country moving to cleaner natural gas, the Obama administration wants to reduce power plant pollution to make good on its promise to the world to cut emissions.

"Yet the estimated 228,800 tons of carbon dioxide contained in the coal aboard the Prime Lily equals the annual emissions of a small American power plant. It's leaving this nation's shores, but not the planet."

Read the whole article, which describes the outcome as part of a "global shell game on fossil fuels." The Obama administration plays it down as a relatively small rise in exports in absolute terms, but that misses the point. Which is this: We are going to constrict our own economy in the name of reducing fossil-fuel use, but fossil-fuel use isn't going to fall. It's just going to move overseas. And as previously noted, that use overseas will probably be less efficient than it would have been here.

This line from the administration, as reported in the story, is also rich: "It says that if the U.S. didn't supply the coal, another country would." That may be true -- but such logic hasn't persuaded the Obama administration to ignore radical opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline. If that pipeline isn't built, Canada won't leave the oil in the ground; it'll simply ship it elsewhere, probably to China, and probably via more environmentally perilous means.

Remind me why this EPA rule is a good idea?

About Kyle Wingfield

Kyle Wingfield is the AJC's conservative columnist. He joined the AJC in 2009 after writing for the Wall Street Journal, based in Brussels, and the Associated Press, based in Atlanta and Montgomery, Ala.

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Some lawmakers see limited risk from climate change as White House plows ahead with carbon rules

Evan Lehmann, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Opinions split sharply yesterday on whether tackling climate change would help or hurt the economy, but none of the lawmakers at a Senate hearing directly dismissed its scientific underpinnings.

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), a candidate in his state's 2015 gubernatorial election, said that many people of different political stripes accept that human activity is affecting the atmosphere.

"Lots of folks agree with that," Vitter said.

And Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), after asking rhetorically if the "science is sufficient to justify warming," said he was inclined to say it is.

The positioning came amid intense attention this week to President Obama's proposal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions at the nation's power plants. It also underscored the divergent ideas that lawmakers have about the range of dangers posed by climate change and the extent to which the government should try to address it.

Both Vitter and Sessions expressed belief in climbing temperatures. But their beliefs about the degree to which humans are forcing that rise, and our ability to stem it, diverge sharply from those of Democrats on the panel. A witness from a global reinsurance company testified that weather damage has risen sharply for three decades, and a local Florida politician said that sea-level rise is causing "herculean" challenges for coastal infrastructure.

Vitter criticized Democrats for having historically used "cartoonish" examples of warming, such as uncertain claims that hurricanes and tornadoes are getting worse. And in written testimony, he questioned the rate of warming by pointing to slower-than-expected gains in temperature since the late 1990s.

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.). Photo courtesy of his office.

In some ways, it reflects the position of Bjørn Lomborg, a controversial Dutch author who accepts human-caused climate change but warns that efforts to suppress it could be more expensive than doing nothing. He was a witness at two climate hearings yesterday.

"If you look at the cost of inaction [on climate] over this century, it is a significant increase in costs," Lomborg said, noting the impacts from storms and other hazards. "That is certainly an argument for doing something. But we have to also remember that there is a cost to that action, as well."

'Upward trend' in losses

In his estimation, it's unlikely that the world can prevent climate damages in an affordable way. Lomborg, who studied political science and who testified in a black T-shirt and jeans, estimates that if global

warming were to continue unabated, it would impose a global cost of $3.4 trillion by 2100. Under a best-case scenario, which he says is unlikely, nations worldwide could save $200 billion. The more likely outcome would be higher electricity prices and other costs that fall on low-income people, he said.

Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) suggested that Lomborg was emphasizing distasteful examples, like an 80 percent increase in Germany's electricity rates over the last 14 years. Instead, Markey said that policies could be structured after the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multistate cap-and-trade program that he said has raised millions of dollars for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Massachusetts has lower electricity rates than when the program began, he said.

Other policies might save money through adaptation. Carl Hedde, head of risk accumulation at Munich Re America, said things like stronger building codes could diminish damage from intensifying storms.

"One area where we do see an upward trend is in regard to losses from weather catastrophes, which over time have increased in both frequency and severity," Hedde told the panel.

Much of those losses can be attributed to the expansion of homes and other buildings: There are more targets being hit by wind, hail and tornadoes. But Hedde said it's more than that. The weather is also getting worse. As evidence, he pointed to losses from earthquakes, which he said have stayed "very constant" over the last 35 years. That means expanded development can't be the only reason for greater losses, he said.

A 'bipartisan' challenge in South Fla.

Kristin Jacobs, a commissioner in Broward County, Fla., told the panel that South Florida is already facing threats from rising seawater, which is infiltrating drinking water systems and degrading the ability of floodwater to runoff into the ocean.

That has contributed to challenging infrastructure problems. The South Florida Water Management District says that 18 gates used to separate fresh water and salt water are vulnerable to sea-level rise, Jacobs said. When seawater is high, the gates can't be opened to disperse floodwater because salt water will enter the system. The region is grappling with whether to upgrade the gates; each one would cost about $50 million.

"In South Florida, it's a bipartisan conversation," Jacobs said of sea-level rise.

The hearing led by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) was just one event during a weeklong push by the administration to advance its climate efforts. The White House released a report yesterday outlining the economic consequences of delaying emission reductions. Also yesterday, the administration announced a big data initiative on "food resilience," and the Department of Energy unveiled new steps to reduce methane leaks.

All of them coincided with a series of listening sessions on U.S. EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, which will regulate greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector. The politically charged sessions provided a platform for opponents and supporters of the plan in the cities of Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) said that Coloradans signed up in "droves" to attend the Denver meeting. Lawmakers are weighing in with a similar amount of enthusiasm.

"Our state is already experiencing the negative effects of a changing climate," Bennet said. "The constant threat of wildfire, prolonged drought that imperils our $40 billion agriculture industry, and our shortened winters ... and longer summers all demand action."

All that climate action might be contagious. Smaller efforts have been swept up in its momentum. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) announced yesterday that he'll unveil "major" legislation today to cap carbon emissions nationwide (*E&E Daily*, July 30).

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Proliferation of top-job vacancies and no end in sight

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter – Greenwire PM

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

U.S. EPA is on the verge of having more vacancies than Senate-confirmed officials in its top jobs.

The departures of two veteran EPA leaders -- second-in-command Bob Perciasepe and top human resources official Craig Hooks -- will leave eight of the agency's 14 key political posts vacant. Most of those empty seats have nominees pending in the Senate, but the slow pace of confirmations, coupled with controversy surrounding EPA's policies, means it could be a while before the agency is operating at full strength again -- if it happens at all before President Obama's term ends.

The vacuum of Senate-confirmed leaders comes at a time when the agency should be running on all cylinders. The administration has made EPA regulations a centerpiece of its second-term agenda, having failed to move major environmental legislation through Congress but vowing to tackle climate change through the executive branch. Lawmakers have also pressed EPA to deal with some management problems that have cropped up recently, but those efforts could be hampered if outgoing managers can't be replaced.

"I think that the president, the administration, the heads of these agencies -- not just EPA but across the board -- would prefer to have their own people in place," said Timothy Fields, who served as the head of the solid waste office toward the end of the Clinton administration.

Turnover among agencies' top brass is common, particularly in an administration's second term, but former EPA officials say the continuing vacancies are unlike what they saw in recent administrations, when they say most departing officials were replaced at a faster clip.

"It's a lot," former George W. Bush-era EPA official Susan Parker Bodine said of the current vacancies. "The issue is, if you don't have a confirmed political appointee heading up an office ... it's very hard to take on any kind of new direction," said Bodine, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP who was assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "Things tend to languish when there isn't a political appointee."

Under the Clinton administration, "We did not have the problem we have now where we had people who were waiting, in some cases years, to get confirmed," Fields said.

Not having Senate-confirmed leaders in place can mean uncertainty for nominees, the EPA staffers working in those offices and outside stakeholders, former agency officials said.

"I feel for the individuals involved," Fields said. "It also causes anxiety and lack of clarity for the direction of that particular program when the person who has been nominated has not been confirmed," he added. "Staff doesn't know what's going to happen."

Bodine was staff director of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment when she was picked for the Bush-era EPA job in June 2005. She wasn't confirmed until that December, as Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) held up her nomination. In the meantime, she said, "there were a lot of things that were just on hold, waiting for someone to move them forward."

Vacancies can affect outsiders who work with the agency, too, said Ben Grumbles, EPA water chief during the Bush administration and now president of the U.S. Water Alliance. "Regardless of what party or administration, political appointees can help bring constituencies along, both congressional and noncongressional, and key stakeholder groups to collaborate and engage more to help the agency with its agenda," he said.

Current and former EPA officials say the agency can do its job in spite of the open slots.

"We're actively working to fill the leadership vacancies, but it in no way has hampered the agency's efforts to advance the president's agenda when it comes to climate change, clean air and clean water," said EPA spokesman Tom Reynolds.

J. Charles Fox, who worked at EPA during both the Obama and Clinton administrations, said this is something that is "going to be potentially challenging for the administrator to manage." However, he said there are a lot of talented people at the agency who can keep things running smoothly. "It is certainly manageable."

Although the sheer number of vacancies may be reaching new heights now, controversial posts have languished for a while without Senate-confirmed leaders during past administrations.

Take the air office after Bush-era boss Jeff Holmstead resigned in 2005. The Senate refused to confirm Bill Wehrum, the administration's next nominee for the post, amid Democratic opposition to its air policies, and the office was led in an acting capacity until the White House changed hands.

"The Senate basically made it clear that they weren't going to confirm anyone," Holmstead said today in an interview. But he doesn't think the air program suffered under the acting leadership of Wehrum and his successor, Bob Myers. "In some cases you have an acting person who really is just kind of a caretaker. If everybody knows that, then that person doesn't really have that much influence." He said it didn't make much of a difference during the Bush administration, because Wehrum and Myers had the backing of the White House.

Janet McCabe, the White House nominee to take the helm of the air office, could be facing a long wait, too.

McCabe, who's been acting chief of the office since last summer, was nominated for the job in December but hasn't yet seen a vote in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. It's unclear if or when she'll get a floor vote, given the controversy surrounding EPA's air and climate programs.

"In that situation where the acting is the nominee, I think it's an easier situation," Bodine said. McCabe is also known to be a close ally of EPA chief Gina McCarthy, after the two worked closely for years while McCarthy headed the air shop.

Other EPA nominees are also working inside the agency, which could mean a smoother transition if and when they get confirmed. That includes Obama's nominee to lead the Water Office, Ken Kopocis, and Jane Nishida, the nominee to lead the international affairs office.

Still, three other administration picks remain outside the agency, waiting to see whether they'll ultimately get the jobs: Ann Dunkin, nominated to lead the Environmental Information Office; Victoria Wassmer, Obama's pick to be chief financial officer; and Thomas Burke, the nominee to head the Office of Research and Development.

The administration hasn't yet announced nominees to replace Perciasepe or Hooks, and EPA hasn't said who will be filling their shoes on an acting basis.

EPA isn't the only agency with a backlog getting top officials confirmed. Nominees for key energy and environmental jobs across the government are still waiting for the Senate to sign off, with some waiting for years.

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EPA regulation hearings draw interest groups to Pittsburgh

Outlet Full Name: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – Online

News Text: Hundreds of people from environmental organizations and the coal and electric power industries are scheduled to testify at federal hearings in Pittsburgh on Thursday and Friday about controversial proposed regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from coal-burning power plants.

And in the meantime, a host of interested groups is clamoring to get their views out early and publicly.

Environmental groups have hailed the proposed regulations as a key step to combat climate change, while some industry representatives decry the rules as government overreach.

The EPA proposal, initially released in June, aims to cut carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels nationwide by 2030. Pennsylvania is tasked with cutting emissions by almost 32 percent by that date.

The groups slated to offer remarks at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, Downtown, later this week either supporting or opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal include physicians, environmental activists and utility companies. In addition, both national and local groups will be represented, from the National Wildlife Federation to the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and the Ohio-based coal company Murray Energy Corp.

The Pittsburgh hearings are among several scheduled nationwide during this week — the public will debate EPA's Clean Power Plan in Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Gov. Tom Corbett is expected to rally with other public officials at Highmark Stadium on Wednesday in opposition of the proposal. Workers with the United Mine Workers of America, similarly, plan to march in protest of the regulations on Thursday.

The Sierra Club, in contrast, is running radio advertisements this week expressing support for the policy. Environmental activists plan to rally together Thursday at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. Mayor Bill Peduto is expected to attend.

In a run-up to the testimony, a host of industry, business, environmental and health organizations held news conferences and released advance transcripts of their hearing testimony in attempts to sway public opinion.

At a joint phone-in news conference Monday morning, leaders of five national environmental and community organizations said they supported the Obama administration's carbon pollution standards as a reasonable and necessary first step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

“The hearings on these rules,” said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, “are a major step for moving forward on a climate change policy for the country that will define our children's future.”

But testimony that is expected to be delivered Friday in Pittsburgh by Christopher Burk of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council questions the legality of the administration's rules. He also said the regulations will increase electricity costs and could make power supplies unreliable while having little impact on the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

“Carbon emissions are a global issue,” he said in testimony released Tuesday. “This proposal, however, is risky, expensive, and will do nothing to address the global nature of carbon emissions. EPA's proposal comes with real risks for the health and economic well-being of our country, and the proposal should not be finalized as currently drafted.”

The Obama administration released a report by Council of Economic Advisers urged immediate action on climate change policy, saying that delaying policy actions by a decade will increase total mitigation costs by about 40 percent. “Failing to take any action would risk substantial economic damage,” the report stated.

Pre-registration for those interested in speaking at the hearings has closed, and Thursday's roster in Pittsburgh is full. There are still some slots available on Friday evening through in-person registration.

The public can also submit comments on the proposal to EPA through Oct. 16. The agency has received almost 300,000 written comments so far, according to its website.Top of the Document

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W.Va. leaders to attend coal rally in Pa.

Outlet Full Name: Seattle Post-

Intelligencer

News Text: CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia officials are set to join hundreds of coal miners and coal supporters at an electricity and energy jobs rally.

The rally is scheduled for Wednesday at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, labor leaders and others are scheduled to participate.

Officials say the rally is aimed at raising awareness over proposed changed to federal rules about pollution discharged by coal-fired power plants.

The Environmental Protection Agency's plan aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point.

Tomblin has said none of the state's coal plants are close to meeting the proposed standard, although companies say they're cutting emissions.

West Virginia is the nation's second biggest coal producer after Wyoming.Top of the Document

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EPA R&D office struggles to define its mission in climate initiative

Amanda Peterka, E&E reporter – Greenwire PM

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

As U.S EPA promotes its landmark plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at existing power plants, the agency's research office is struggling to define its climate change mission.

Office of Research and Development officials say they're searching for a path forward on climate research that doesn't step on other departments' toes, affect other R&D priorities, drain the budget or exceed political constraints.

"We're trying to work on this from a number of different angles given the limited confines that we have within our mandate and budget that we have," said Dan Costa, program director for air research in the R&D office, at an EPA meeting last week in Washington, D.C.

EPA has 1 percent of federal climate research funding. In the R&D office, climate dollars represent 4 percent of a $96 million budget.

The agency is pursuing climate research through the R&D office and a dedicated budget in the office's new air, climate and energy program, which groups climate and energy with the office's existing air research.

Much of EPA's struggle over figuring out where its climate priorities comes from the reality that every move by the agency -- especially on climate change -- is closely scrutinized by members of Congress and the public.

EPA "may only get 1 or 4 percent of the budget or activity, but I'd say that you probably get about 90 percent of the lightning strikes," said William Schlesinger, president of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, N.Y.

The research office recognizes that reality and doesn't want to use up valuable political capital or dollars by pursuing work already being done by other departments, Costa said. That means the office is never going to develop big models to predict that effect of climate change, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration does, nor will it closely look at the effects of climate change on agriculture, he said.

"There's a lot of really great climate science being done academically, at NOAA, NASA, etc.," Costa said. "What's EPA's role in the climate, particularly since in a sense we are in the crosshairs of Congress?"

The agency is still in the very early stages of figuring out what that role should be and how it fits into the research office's work on conventional air pollutants such as ozone and particulate matter, said Andy Miller, associate director for climate in the air, climate and energy program.

The office is focusing on "actionable" climate science that can help out EPA or its partners in the face of lawsuits, Miller said.

That means research that looks at how states should consider climate concerns when writing implementation plans for Clean Air Act pollution standards for example or looking at how cities design water treatment or sewage systems.

"We certainly understand the effects of energy efficiency," Miller said. "And we have some work that probably will be starting to look at what people don't invest in energy efficiency. But we really can't take action as EPA on that. We can encourage people. We have some voluntary programs. But that's not what we get sued on. We get sued on the fact that we're not meeting our requirements under the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act."

EPA's research office has also focused recently on greenhouse gas emissions from traditional cook stoves and natural gas operations, Miller said. Tools that had historically been used to measure emissions of particulate matter are now being used to measure black carbon, while remote sensing work has shifted from ammonia to methane.

"We have our niche," Miller said. "There is only so much we can do."

But as climate becomes "mainstream," he said, the office is getting requests to explore more issues.

'Wolf at the door'

In a draft document laying out the air, climate and energy program's strategy from 2016 to 2019, the R&D office expressed a desire to do more in climate, including developing tools for communities and individuals to prepare for climate change.

"We're sort of at the seedling end of what we would like to see the climate program become," Costa said.

But in the air, climate and energy program, climate research still receives about 20 percent of the full budget and 12 percent of full-time employees. Air research receives about 80 percent of the funding,

while energy receives a negligible amount.

And focus on climate change requires EPA's Office of Air and Radiation to undergo a shift in thinking from short-term priorities -- such as reviewing federal pollution standards every five years, as required by the Clean Air Act -- to more long-term thinking, Costa said.

"They're usually worried about the wolf at the door, as opposed to the wolf down the road," Costa said. "Their needs tend to be more short term."

Some of EPA's science advisers have expressed concerns about the agency's future goals in climate change research, given the constraints.

"The research directions for the Air program are extremely broad, and I have a bit of concern about whether they will result in tangible progress," said Ingrid Burke, director of the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming, in a public comment.

Others say that the plans don't go far enough.

"One area of importance is the interaction of climate change with air pollution," said George Alexeeff, director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in the California EPA. "It is hard to see where that research is occurring if it is."

Schlesinger, a science adviser who spoke last week at the meeting in Washington, D.C., said that the agency was focusing on the wrong priorities. EPA's role in federal climate change research should be embarking on science that explores the full consequences of the actions it's taken to address climate change, he said.

Since EPA's plan to lower carbon dioxide emissions from power plants envisions a wide-scale shift to renewable energies, the R&D office should expand its life cycle assessments of renewable energy technologies, he said.

That means looking at the effects of covering up desert ecosystems with huge solar farms or the emission impacts of increasing the mining of rare earth minerals that go into solar panels.

"I would go after those things before I would spend a nickel on cook stoves," Schlesinger said.

EPA's Costa acknowledged those concerns but said the agency's hands were tied.

While EPA has the ability to act as a "manager" and help set the tone of other research efforts throughout the government through various interdepartmental committees, he said, the agency must follow its basic mission of protecting human health and the environment, and ensuring compliance with environmental laws.

"The most important is EPA and what EPA really needs in its mandate," Costa said. "At the same time, we're trying to be a little bit of an insurgency and to reach around that, start to think in broader terms. And for us to just do that, it's easy for us to just be pushed back into our place."

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Senate panel clashes on cost vs. benefit of mitigation

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter – E&E Daily News

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Democrats continued to make the argument yesterday that climate inaction isn't free, inviting witnesses whose livelihoods are threatened by warming to brief a Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee.

But the panel focused most of its questions on two witnesses invited by Republicans, who countered that the cost of action would be far higher than the value of mitigation and would disproportionally affect small businesses and the poor.

The Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee hearing on climate costs came as interest groups aired their views on U.S. EPA's existing power plant proposal at listening sessions at the agency's Washington, D.C. headquarters and in Atlanta and Denver (*Greenwire*, July 29).

It also followed a White House report yesterday arguing that postponing action would cost more in the long run (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who leads the subpanel, was mostly joined on the dais by Republican members. Only Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey joined from the Democratic side later in the hearing.

Whitehouse told his Republican colleagues that he understood their interest in preserving the fossil fuel industries that help support their Southern and Western states' economies, but he added that carbon dioxide emissions from their home-state industries put Rhode Island at risk.

From sea-level rise to more frequent storms to changes in commercial fisheries, coastal states are adversely affected by climate change that is in large part driven by industries that are not located there, like coal-fired generation, he said.

"Our side of the ledger counts, too, and those costs are high," Whitehouse said.

The "side of the ledger" that has the most to lose from a lack of action to address emissions was represented by three witnesses: Carl Hedde, chief of risk accumulation at Munich Reinsurance America; Kristen Jacobs, a commissioner for Broward County, Fla., which is already seeing its water infrastructure threatened by sea-level rise; and Bill Mook, who owns a small shellfish fishery in Maine that is feeling the pinch from ocean acidification.

Hedde said the reinsurance industry traditionally has relied on historical data to assess risk -- a practice that has proved increasingly risky as weather patterns have shifted.

"What we do see is an upward trend in regard to losses from weather catastrophes, which over time have increased in both frequency and severity," he said, adding that climate change has likely played a role.

While this trajectory is bad for his industry, Hedde warned that not all losses are insured, and U.S. taxpayers are usually on the hook for the difference.

Jacobs' county has collaborated with three other southeast Florida counties to try to mitigate and prepare for problems caused by sea-level rise, which is driving salt water into the region's water supply and causing flooding and property damage.

Jacobs, who is a member of President Obama's local advisory panel on climate change adaptation, said that the cost of climate change has become such an immediate reality in her region that it has compelled a bipartisan group of local policymakers to "pull in the same direction."

"In South Florida, it is a bipartisan conversation; it's not the kind of conversation you're seeing up here in Washington," she said. "And I think that's because we're dealing with it."

She added that states need the financial and technical expertise of the federal government to help them prepare for changing conditions.

Mook, who runs the Mook Sea Farm in Walpole, Maine, said that ocean acidification from increased atmospheric CO2 threatens the health of the oysters he harvests. Crabs and lobsters might be affected, as well, he said, but more research is needed. He urged research into the effects of ocean acidification and policies to reduce CO2.

"As an American businessman, I believe the greenhouse gas equation is solvable," Mook said, arguing that curbs on emissions would spur innovation.

Committee Republicans, meanwhile, did not argue that climate change isn't occurring -- though they expressed some doubt about its cause. Instead, they focused on Obama's Climate Action Plan -- and especially the EPA rule currently under review -- which Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) said is "pressing down on the brow of the working man," especially in parts of the country that rely on coal.

The question isn't whether climate change is happening, said Sessions, the subcommittee ranking member, but "what do you do about it and how do you react to it."

Sessions, full committee ranking member David Vitter (R-La.) and a handful of their colleagues blasted the rule as "very extreme," arguing that even if climate change does carry some risks to the economy, they must be balanced against the expense and uncertainty of regulatory action.

Vitter protested EPA's use of the administration's much-discussed social cost of carbon to guide development of the existing power plant proposal -- an estimate for the economic effects of a ton of CO2 that he said overvalues international benefits of mitigation while ignoring the costs of regulation at home.

Republican invitees drove home the same points. Raymond Keating, chief economist for the conservative Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, said the administration is waging a "war on small business" as well as on fossil fuels, because smaller enterprises can't absorb the cost of regulation. Many of those businesses also provide services to larger industries that would be affected, he said.

And Bjørn Lomborg, director of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, said that climate change is occurring and will have a cost. "This is a problem," he said, "but it's not the end of the world."

In his testimony, Lomborg put the cumulative cost of doing nothing about greenhouse gas emissions at

about 1.8 percent of the world's gross domestic product by the end of the century. But while that's a significant hit, it would be spaced out over many decades, and the world could be in for an even bigger cost if it responds to climate change by taking steps that damage its economic development, he said -- perhaps totaling as much as 2.8 percent of GDP.

"There's a significant risk that we're going to end up paying a lot more, and there's an insignificant upside," he said.

"What we have to do is to ensure that we don't end up spending lots of money on things that actually won't help the world," Lomborg said. For example, rich countries might opt to help Africa electrify through investments in renewable energy rather than the fossil fuel power plants that could serve more of the continent.

But Jacobs argued that many of the expenses that governments are facing would be incurred whether climate change is considered or not.

"We are already, all of us, whether it is the federal government, the state or local governments, spending significant amounts of money," she said. "The idea is to spend them smartly, to understand what the future looks like and build accordingly."

The EPW subcommittee hearing and another held yesterday by the Senate Budget Committee are part of a concerted effort by Democrats to demonstrate that avoiding regulation would not make the cost of climate change disappear (*Greenwire*, July 29).

The same point was made yesterday when the White House unveiled a report ahead of the EPA listening sessions that argued that the cost of reductions would rise by 40 percent each decade that the United States delays cutting emissions.

Environmentalists applauded the White House for adopting that message.

"Today's report shows us that opponents of climate action have it backwards -- the real cost to our economy will come if we do not meet this challenge head on," said Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, in a statement.

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Climate change is among top national security concerns -- experts

Julia Pyper, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

National security once referred only to the defense against armed conflict. But today, there is substantial evidence that national security is also affected by a variety of climate-induced threats, which are expected

to become more severe in the coming decades, government leaders and military experts said yesterday. They spoke at a forum hosted by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

"National security is no longer about counting tanks, counting missiles or counting terrorist cells; it's about coping with these unprecedented changes, some of which we can foresee and some are unimaginable," said Craig Gannett, vice president of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, which convened a meeting of 36 government, businesses and nonprofit leaders last month to discuss the intersection of national security and climate change.

Participants found that disruptions caused by or exacerbated by rising sea levels, hurricanes, drought, wildfires and other environmental disturbances resulting from climate change have national security implications both overseas and at home.

Responding to international humanitarian crises draws on military resources, for instance. Managing climate refugees or the effects of sea-level rise in low-lying areas that are already politically unstable will also have obvious national security implications.

Domestically, national security hinges on economic prosperity. If severe weather inhibits agricultural production or the movement of goods, the United States will be a weaker nation, Gannett said.

The United States is already seeing these effects, said Alice Hill, senior adviser for preparedness and resilience to the assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, said yesterday at the Wilson Center.

"The rate of impacts is accelerating, which means that we need to be accelerating our efforts to prepare and adapt," she said. "We also need to accelerate our efforts to mitigate the emissions that are causing these impacts."

DOD sees full risk spectrum

While resilience measures create additional upfront costs, they can reduce future costs associated with climate-related events, the Government Accountability Office concluded in a report released yesterday.

"Climate change and related extreme weather impacts on infrastructure and federal lands increase fiscal exposures that the federal budget does not fully reflect," the report states.

Risk is especially high for the Department of Defense, which has a global real-estate portfolio of 555,000 facilities and 28 million acres of land worth an estimated $850 billion.

"Since DOD sprawls across the U.S. and the world, we have to deal with every possible climate problem somewhere," said John Conger, acting deputy undersecretary of Defense for installations and environment, in a recent interview.

For military facilities, that includes coping with sea-level rise and surges on the coasts, cracking foundations in Alaska, where permafrost is melting, and heat waves and high temperatures that make it difficult for soldiers to train, among other threats. DOD has sought to mitigate some of these risks by instructing installation managers to incorporate climate change concerns into their master plans for military bases, like where to site new buildings.

Discussions on the links between national security and climate change comes as debates continue in Washington, D.C., over the costs of inaction in responding to a changing climate.

A report released by the White House yesterday found that each decade the United States delays acting

on climate change would add an extra 40 percent to the cost of dealing with the problem (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

"Definitely, there are economic downsides to the country by putting off, postponing and taking a wait-and-see attitude," Hill said.

Current vs. future costs

The report comes as U.S. EPA kicks off public hearings on its plan to cut carbon emissions from existing power plants -- a central component of President Obama's Climate Action Plan.

Hill added yesterday that while the president is aggressively tackling greenhouse gas emissions through proposed power plant regulations and other measures, the United States will continue to rely on fossil fuels until there is a sufficient amount of affordable alternatives.

At a Senate Budget Committee hearing yesterday, ranking member Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) argued that the country must weigh the benefits of acting against the distant threat of climate change against the "indisputable" near-term costs.

"Every global warming action has costs, and we must acknowledge those costs and decide whether the wealth expended gets the maximum results considering all the needs of America," he said.

In her written testimony before the committee, Sherri Goodman, senior vice president and general counsel to CNA Corp., echoed earlier warnings that climate change poses severe risks for U.S. national security. In May, CNA's Military Advisory Board published a report that called climate change a "catalyst for conflict" (*ClimateWire*, May 14).

"In the seven years that have passed since our initial assessment, we have witnessed more frequent and/or intense weather events, including heat waves, sustained heavy downpours, floods in some regions, and droughts in other areas," she said. "Nine of the 10 costliest storms to hit the United States have occurred in the past 10 years, including Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy."Top of the Document

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DOE efforts to curb methane not enough -- advocates

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter – Greenwire PM

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Climate activists yesterday applauded the Energy Department's announcement of first steps to reduce methane leakage from oil and natural gas systems, but they asked both DOE and U.S. EPA to also promulgate mandatory regulations for the potent greenhouse gas.

DOE yesterday committed to consider new energy efficiency standards to reduce leakage from natural

gas compressors, which push gas down in pipelines. It will also call on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider ways to fund repairs to aging pipes (*ClimateWire*, July 30).

Yesterday also saw the last of several DOE stakeholder round tables aimed at assessing ways to ratchet down oil and gas methane leakage, including possible efficiency standards.

John Kassel, the Conservation Law Foundation's president who participated in the event, said that new regulations would help natural gas play a positive role in climate mitigation.

"The policies and programs that [DOE] is advancing are important steps towards better quantifying and controlling methane, and we look forward to the president's announcements about further action," he said in a statement. "Controlling methane emissions is central to reaping any climate benefits from natural gas, and it is simply too important to leave to voluntary measures."

Armond Cohen, executive director of the Clean Air Task Force, commended Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz for what he called "positive and concrete steps to rein in the harmful emissions" but also called for mandatory regulation.

"As helpful as DOE's actions are, there is no substitute for clear, effective federal regulation of methane emissions from oil and gas," Cohen said in a statement. CATF has joined with other national and local environmental organizations in asking EPA to promulgate Clean Air Act rules for the petroleum system (*Greenwire*, Dec. 5, 2013).

The agency has presented five white papers weighing options for reducing the gas from various phases of petroleum development, transmission and storage, and has promised to announce any decision to regulate this autumn. A report last week by the agency's inspector general appeared to boost the likelihood that EPA will regulate leakage from pipelines -- one of the five sectors it explored.

The climate-forcing power of methane is also an area of controversy with advocates for mandatory action concerned that the administration is underestimating its potential to drive warming by using a long-term estimate that obscures the need to limit the gas. The administration uses a 100-year estimate for the gas's warming potential, estimating it at 21 times as climate-forcing as carbon dioxide.

But a group of scientists wrote to administration personnel yesterday to argue that the most recent scientific assessments put the warming potential of methane at 34 times that of carbon over 100 years and 86 times over a 20-year term -- numbers that might encourage agencies to take stronger action. This is especially true, the scientists argued, because unlike CO_2, methane emissions leave the atmosphere relatively quickly.

"This difference means that aggressive mitigation of methane emissions is essential if the near-term pace of climate change is to be slowed," wrote the researchers, who included Michael Mann, a noted climate scientist and director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University. "Such a slowing is essential to increase the likelihood of avoiding climatic tipping points and to moderate the intensification of current climate impacts, including Arctic sea-ice loss."

The letter was addressed to Moniz; EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy; Mike Boots, acting director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; and others.

Twitter: @chemnipot | Email: jchemnick@eenews.netTop of the Document

Trees soak up contaminants, provide $7B in U.S. health benefits a year -- study

Amanda Peterka, E&E reporter – Greenwire PM

Published: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Trees save more than 850 lives and prevent 670,000 cases of acute respiratory symptoms a year by soaking up dirty air, according to a new federal study.

Forest Service researchers and collaborators found trees clear the air by removing pollutants and altering local climates. Although trees contribute less than 1 percent of all average air quality improvement, the associated human health effects are worth about $7 billion, the study found.

"With more than 80 percent of Americans living in urban area, this research underscores how truly essential urban forests are to people across the nation," said Michael Rains, director of the Forest Service's Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory, in a statement.

Other studies have analyzed trees' ability to remove air pollutants, but few have linked pollution removal by trees to public health effects and lives saved.

The study, published last week in the journal *Environmental Pollution*, analyzed trees' impacts on four Clean Air Act criteria pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter finer than 2.5 microns. It was funded by the service and conducted using models.

Researchers found trees remove air pollutants several ways. They soak up gaseous pollutants through pores in leaves. Once inside a tree, the pollutant diffuses into spaces in cells, is absorbed by water or reacts with leaf surfaces. Particulate matter or soot, on the other hand, tends to cling to the surfaces of the trees.

Trees are responsible for removing more ground-level ozone -- a component of smog -- than any other pollutants studied. The monetary value of ozone and particulate matter removal topped the list of the trees' air-quality services.

In all, trees removed more than 17 million tons of air pollutants in 2010, the study found.

Effects depend on the amount of tree cover in an area and vary throughout the United States, the report says.

Although average tree cover in the United States is 34.2 percent, it varies state-by-state from 2.6 percent in North Dakota to 88.9 percent in New Hampshire.

"As people and trees exist throughout a landscape in varying densities, not only will pollution removal and its effects on local pollution concentrations vary, but so will the associated human health impacts and values," the study says.

When it comes to their ability to reduce human health impacts, trees located in urban areas tend to be more important than those in rural areas because of their proximity to more people.

"We found that in general, the greater the tree cover, the greater the pollution removal, and the greater the removal and population density, the greater the value of human health benefits," said Dave Nowak, project leader and research forester at the Forest Service's Northern Research Station.

The study didn't address the relative impacts of trees in rural areas surrounding urban areas. The study notes that poor tree health could limit their ability to capture pollutants.

Twitter: @apeterka | Email: apeterka@eenews.netTop of the Document

Jean Walker
Policy Analysis and Communications Staff
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Phone: 919-541-5615 Fax: 919-541-2464

To: Henigin, Mary[Henigin.Mary@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Dougherty, Joseph-J
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 11:57:12 AM
Subject: new room A list
DC Clean Power Plan Hearing Speaker Sign-in July 30 Room A.docx

New sheet with Toby Short (Duke Energy), Rep. McKinley, and Senator Sanders added.

To: Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Henigin, Mary
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 12:23:21 AM
Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

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From: Myers, Kevin
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 8:20:17 PM
To: Bailey, KevinJ; Henigin, Mary
Cc: OAQPS WOPS
Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

Thanks. I will add it to the list of those arriving to the east courtyard tomorrow.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Bailey, KevinJ
Sent: 7/29/2014 6:54 PM
To: Henigin, Mary
Cc: Myers, Kevin; OAQPS WOPS
Subject: Re: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing

We've been using the WJC East courtyard.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 29, 2014, at 6:34 PM, "Henigin, Mary" <Henigin.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Kevin,
>
> Kevin Myers is inquiring as to which entrance Rep McKinley will be driving in?
>
> Thanks much
> Mary
> _____
> From: Henigin, Mary
> Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:59:21 PM
> To: Campbell, Jeff
> Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> _____
> From: Henigin, Mary
> Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:50:08 PM
> To: Bailey, KevinJ
> Cc: Dougherty, Joseph-J
> Subject: Fw: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> _____
> From: Garrett, Pamela
> Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:47:14 PM
> To: Henigin, Mary

> Subject: FW: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> FYI
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Bill Raney [mailto:BRaney@wvcoal.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:43 PM
> To: Garrett, Pamela
> Cc: Hamilton, Mike
> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> Pam---Once again I am appreciative of you affording me the 9:55 a.m. time slot in Washington on July 30th. However, Congressman David McKinley, from West Virginia's First District, will take my spot at 9:55 a.m. in DC. I trust that will be acceptable? I would appreciate you letting me know you received this message. Again, thanks so much.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Garrett, Pamela [mailto:Garrett.Pamela@epa.gov]
> Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:00 AM
> To: Bill Raney
> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> I'll try to remember if anyone cancels an earlier slot in Pittsburgh. Also, you do have to option of submitting your comments electronically to the docket if you can't make it to the Pittsburgh hearing. The live link is below.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Bill Raney [mailto:BRaney@wvcoal.com]
> Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 9:52 AM
> To: Garrett, Pamela
> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> Thank you so much and I will take the earlier time slot in Washington and should anything become available in Pittsburgh, I would very much appreciate you keeping me in mind. Not that it makes any difference to you, but since you have been so good and considerate, I want to let you know that my conflict is our Annual Meeting which includes my Board of Directors meeting is beginning on July 31. This is a meeting that has been under contract for a year and has occurred at the same time of year, the first weekend of August, for more than 40 years. I'm simply trying to see if I can get both done because I absolutely have to be there for our meeting. Again, not to bore you with reasons but to say how much I appreciate your consideration. Thanks.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Garrett, Pamela [mailto:Garrett.Pamela@epa.gov]
> Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 9:40 AM
> To: Bill Raney
> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> I had the 9:55 time slot in Washington open up this morning. I have tentatively placed you at that time. Please let me know if this is agreeable and I'll remove you from the 4:15 slot. As far as Pittsburgh goes the time you were assigned was the earliest that was available. You may come at a more convenient time and check in at the registration desk and they will do their best to work you in. However, you need to be aware that they cannot guarantee that you will be worked in immediately. Hope this helps.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Bill Raney [mailto:BRaney@wvcoal.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:13 PM
> To: Garrett, Pamela

> Subject: RE: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> Is it possible to get a speaking slot earlier in the morning at both Pittsburgh and Washington? I have an unresolvable conflict on both dates that could work if I could obtain an early time slot, particularly in Pittsburgh. Thank you for any consideration that might be possible. Bill Raney
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Garrett, Pamela [mailto:Garrett.Pamela@epa.gov]
> Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 3:01 PM
> To: Bill Raney
> Subject: Raney, William B. (DC) Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> You have been registered to speak at 4:15 pm in Washington, DC on July 30th.
>
> INFORMAITON YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL:
> Hearings for the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants and the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources **Please note at the hearings we will be taking comment on both the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants and the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources.
> Answers to potential questions for administrative specialists registering people who wish to speak at the public hearing.
> Q: Where are the hearings going to be held?
> A: The hearings will be held on:
> -Tuesday, July 29, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center Main Tower Bridge Conference Area, Conference Room B, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 and in Denver, Colorado, at EPA's Region 8 Building, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.
> -Wednesday, July 30, 2014 in Washington, DC at the William Jefferson Clinton East Building, Room 1152, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004 -Thursday, July 31, 2014 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, Room 1310, 1000 Liberty Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.
> -The public hearings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and Atlanta, Georgia, will convene at 9:00 a.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). The public hearing in Denver, Colorado, will convene at 9:00 a.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time).
> -For all hearings there will be a lunch break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and a dinner break from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
> The EPA's website for the rulemaking, which includes the proposal and information about the hearings, can be found at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.
>
> Q: Will I have to go through any security measures in order to access the public hearing venue?
> A: Yes, visitors must go through a metal detector, sign in with the security desk and will need to show photo identification to enter the building.
>
> Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.
>
>
> Q: What types of parking is available around this venues? How do I access the venue by metro?
> A: For more information please go to: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule. On the home page of this website, you will see a link for more information for public hearings. Please click on this link and you will be able to get more information for each venue.
>

> Q: My group would like to rent or reserve a space at the public hearing venue, how do we go ahead and do that?
> A: Nonfederal governmental entities are not allowed to reserve space at federal buildings, although if you would like a table available in the atrium/hall to hand out materials we will do our best to accommodate that request. Tables will be available on a first come first served basis.
>
> Q: How long do I have to speak?
> A: Each speaker is given five minutes per public hearing to speak.
>
> Q: Can I register on the day of the hearing to speak?
> A: Yes, you may register the day of the hearing to speak, although we cannot guarantee what time you will speak. Even if the speaking slots fill up, we will be accepting written comments at the hearing. (Please see below for information on how to submit comments to the docket).
>
> Q: If I register before the hearing what do I need to do the day of the hearing?
> A: You will need to check in at the registration desk prior to the time you are scheduled to speak.
>
> Q: Can I submit written comments at the hearing site?
> A: We recommend that you submit your written comments to the docket. The docket number for this rule is: Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 (for the Clean Power Plan for Existing Sources) and EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0630 (for the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources) and information on how to submit written comments is listed below. The public comment period will be open for 120 days from the time the rule is published in the Federal Register. We will be taking comments that are submitted the day of the hearing and will ensure that those get submitted to the docket.
>
> Q: Is there a way I can participate in the hearing remotely? For example, can I call in to provide my comments?
> A: I am sorry there is no way to participate in the hearing remotely. Although, you are able to submit written comments to:
> * Submit a comment using this online form at http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule\
>
> * Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744.
> * Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 (for the Clean Power Plan for Existing Sources) and EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0630 (for the Carbon Pollution Standard for Modified Sources), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.
> * Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.
> Q: Are video cameras allowed at the public hearings?
> A: Yes, video cameras are allowed at the public hearings.
> -----Original Message-----
> From: drupal_admin@epa.gov [mailto:drupal_admin@epa.gov] On Behalf Of William B. Raney
> Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:56 PM
> To: Garrett, Pamela
> Subject: Registration: Clean Power Plan Public Hearing
>
> Submitted on 06/18/2014 2:56PM
> Submitted values are:
>
> Name: William B. Raney
> Organization: West Virginia Coal Association
> Email: braney@wvcoal.com
> Phone: 304-342-4153
> Hearing Location: Washington, DC
> Preferred Time Slot: 9:00-9:30 a.m.

> Alternate Time Slot: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
> Accessibility Requests:
>

To: Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
From: tararaemoore@gmail.com
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:26:45 PM
Subject: Where will testimonies from the EPA hearings be posted?

Hi Angela,

I'm Tara Moore, and I work at Carnegie Mellon University. I'm writing a news brief on Jay Apt testifying at the EPA hearing in Pittsburgh on Thursday.

Can you tell me where his testimony will be posted online? (He told me it will be available.) Will it be posted here?: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule

Thank you!

--
Tara Rae Moore
Communications Manager
College of Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University
412.268.9673

Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30	**9:00 AM**	**INTRODUCTIONS OF EPA HEARI N G PANEL & OPENING STATEMENT (OVERVIEW/GROUND**		
A	30	9:15 AM	Lee Larson	Environment America	
A	30	9:20 AM	Augusta Wilson	Clean Air Council	
A	30	9:25 AM	Karen Harbert	Institute for 21st Century Energy	
A	30	9:30 AM	Senator Benjamin Cardin	US Senator	
A	30	9:35 AM	Liz Perera	Control Point Group	
A	30	9:40 AM	Starla Yeh	NRDC	
A	30	9:45 AM	Terry L. Altman	Sierra Club	
A	30	9:50 AM	Kelly Benjamin	Physicians For Social Responsibility	
A	30	9:55 AM	Jimmy Rose	Guest of Senator Mitch McConnell	
A	30	10:00 AM	Rep. David McKinley	US Representative	
A	30	10:00 AM	Senator Mitch McConnell	US Senator	
A	30	10:00 AM	Bill Bissett	Guest of Senator Mitch McConnell	
A	30	10:05 AM	Lon Huber	Arizona Executive Branch (Governor's Ofc) Residential Utility Consumer Office	
A	30	10:15 AM	Julie Hantman	Moms Clean Air Force	
A	30	10:20 AM	Theresa Pugh	American Public Power Association	
A	30	10:25 AM	Howard J. Feldman	American Petroleum Institute	
A	30	10:35 AM	Seth Heald	Citizen	

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Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30	10:40 AM	Alicia Kolar Prevost	American University	
A	30	10:45 AM	Linda Burchfiel		
A	30	10:50 AM	John Noel	Sierra club	
A	30	10:55 AM	Christy Leavitt		
A	30	11:00 AM	Toby Short	Duke Energy	
A	30	11:05 AM	Jim Lyon	National Wildlife Fed.	
A	30	11:10 AM	Richard Caperton	Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	11:15 AM	Shaun Dakin	Moms Clean Air Force	
A	30	11:20 AM	Collin Rees	SustainUS	
A	30	11:25 AM	Thomas J. Heller	Missouri River Energy Services	
A	30	11:30 AM	Thomas W. Easterly	Commissioner – Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management	
A	30	11:30 AM	Senator Bernie Sanders	US Senator	
A	30	11:30 AM	Douglas B. Hunt	Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light	
A	30	11:35 AM	Jack Sears	Environment America	
A	30	11:40 AM	Julian Boggs	Environment America	
A	30	11:45 AM	Charles C Yoder		
A	30	11:50 AM	Jay Butera	Citizen	
A	30	11:55 AM	Felice Stadler	National Wildlife Federation	

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Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30 - Jul	**12:00 PM**	**LUNCH BREAK**		
A	30 - Jul	**1:00 PM**	**REREADING/SUMMARIZING O F OPENING STATEMENT & HEARING PANEL**		
A	30 - Jul	1:10 PM	Zabrina Arnovitz.	Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	1:15 PM	Donna McDowell	Maryland Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	1:20 PM	Erin Hodge	Environment America	
A	30 - Jul	1:25 PM	Nicole Broder	College of William & Mary (student)	
A	30 - Jul	1:30 PM	Ellen Ziesenhene	Environment America	
A	30 - Jul	1:35 PM	Suzanne Barth		
A	30 - Jul	1:40 PM	Alex Trebatoski	Environment America	
A	30 - Jul	1:45 PM	Samantha Duthe	Environment America	
A	30 - Jul	1:50 PM	Mary Rafferty	Environment America	
A	30 - Jul	1:55 PM	Jennifer Kefer	Alliance for Industrial Efficiency	
A	30 - Jul	2:00 PM	David Cash	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	
A	30 - Jul	2:05 PM	Mandy Warner	EDF	
A	30 - Jul	2:10 PM	Robert Jagusch	Minnesota Municipal Utility Association	
A	30 - Jul	2:15 PM	James Duffy	Clean Air Task Force	
A	30 - Jul	2:20 PM	Derek Meyer		
A	30 - Jul	2:25 PM	Jessica Jones	League of Women Voters	

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Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30	2:30 PM	Kara Rinaldi		
A	30	2:35 PM	Stephanie Herron	Delaware Chapter of Sierra Club	
A	30	2:40 PM	Bentley Johnson	National Wildlife Federation	
A	30	2:45 PM	Isabella Levy	Sierra Club	
A	30	2:50 PM	Alan P. Loeb, Esq.	Attorney, private practice	
A	30	2:55 PM	Dena Adler	Yale Environmental Law Association	
A	30	3:00 PM	Christopher VandeVenter	Basin Electric Power Cooperative	
A	30	3:05 PM	David Scott	Sierra Club	
A	30	3:10 PM	William Penniman		
A	30	3:15 PM	Glen Besa	Sierra Club Virginia	
A	30	3:20 PM	Rianna Eckel	Environment America	
A	30	3:25 PM	Susan Edwards	Sierra Club volunteer	
A	30	3:30 PM	Senator Manchin	US Senator	
A	30	3:30 PM	Rachel Rogier	Arch Coal	
A	30	3:35 PM	Natalie Pien	350 Loudoun	
A	30	3:40 PM	Kathee Myers		
A	30	3:45 PM	Jean - Philippe Pancrate	PERFECT UNION	
A	30	3:50 PM	Kenneth A Ward		
A	30 - Jul	3:55 PM	Barbara H Schlachter	The Episcopal Church, 100Grannies for a Livable Future, Citizens Climate Lobby	

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Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30	4:00 PM	Alexandra Fields	Environment America	
A	30	4:05 PM	Lyndsay Moseley Alexander	American Lung Assoc.	
A	30	4:10 PM	Laura Kate Bender	American Lung Assoc.	
A	30	4:15 PM	Sean Holihan	American Lung Assoc.	
A	30	4:20 PM	Jason D. Bostic	West Virginia Coal Association	
A	30	4:25 PM	Chris R. Hamilton	West Virginia Coal Association	
A	30	4:30 PM	Shelley Vinyard	Environment America	
A	30	4:35 PM	Monique Hanis		
A	30	4:40 PM	Daniel Varghese	OurEarthNow	
A	30	4:45 PM	H. Floyd Gilzow	Vice President of Member Relations, Governmental and Environmental Affairs	
A	30	4:50 PM	Brenna Muller	Sierra Club	
			Craig Segall, CARB		
A	30	4:55 PM	Matthew Gravatt	Sierra Club - Washington DC Chapter	
A	30	4:55 PM	Tom Burack, Commissioner	New Hampshire: Department of	
A	30	**5:00 PM**	**DINNER**		
A	30	**6:00 PM**	**REREADING/SUMMARIZING OF OPE ING STATEMENT & HEARING PANEL**		
A	30	6:10 PM	Susan Guy	Iowa Interfaith Power & Light	
A	30	6:15 PM	Philo Collins	Sierra Club	
A	30	6:25 PM	Albert Accoe	Food and Water Watch	
A	30	6:20 PM	José de Arteaga	Sierra Club	

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Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30 - Jul	6:30 PM	Sheila Holman	NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
A	30 - Jul	6:30 PM	Hugh Youngblood	Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	6:35 PM	David Cash, Commissioner	Massachusetts: Department of Environmental Protection	
A	30 - Jul	6:40 PM	Tom Burack, Commissioner	New Hampshire: Department of Environmental Services	
A	30 - Jul	6:45 PM	Mark Glick, Hawaii State Energy Administrator		
A	30 - Jul	6:50 PM	Craig Segall, Senior Staff Counsel,	California Air Resources Board	
A	30 - Jul	6:55 PM	Terry McGuire	Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	7:00 PM	Linda Silversmith	League of Women Voters of Maryland	
A	30 - Jul	7:05 PM	Deborah	Earthjustice	
A	30 - Jul	7:10 PM	Patricia Finley	Eco - Justice Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	
A	30 - Jul	7:15 PM	Dale Louda	CHP Association	
A	30 - Jul	7:20 PM	Barbara Weinstein	Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism	
A	30 - Jul	7:25 PM	Liz Perera	Sierra Club	
A	30 - Jul	7:30 PM	Michalene Reilly	Hoosier Energy REC, Inc	

ED_506_3_00000059

Washington DC | Clean Power Plan Public Hearing | July 30

A 30 - Jul 7:35 PM Erik Backus Summit Presbyterian Church

A 30 - Jul 7:40 PM Niasia Ellis American Lung

Association A 30 - Jul 7:45 PM Sanaa Sledge American

Lung Association A 30 - Jul 7:50 PM Adrianna Quintero Voces

ED_506_3_00000059

Room	Date	Time	Name	Affilliation	Notes
A	30	7:55 PM	Eugene M. Trisko	United Mine Workers of America	
A	30	7:55 PM	Jacqueline Patterson	NAACP	
A	30	8:00 PM	**CLOSING STATEMENT**		

ED_506_3_00000059

To: Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Febbo, carol
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 11:27:26 AM
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Good luck today! I know it will be successful. Carol

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 30, 2014, at 6:02 PM, "Hackel, Angela" <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for letting me know. Feel better soon;)

Angela

From: Febbo, carol
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 5:51:52 PM
To: Hackel, Angela
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Hi Angela. Don't know if Patrick let u know but I hurt my knee and am not making it to Pittsburgh,

Carol

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 30, 2014, at 5:47 PM, "Hackel, Angela" <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Everyone,

We are planning on being there tomorrow to set up logistics and we are asking that panelists to be there at 730 tomorrow to allow time to get through security.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Angela

From: Hackel, Angela
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2014 1:42:23 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; egan, patrick; Wayland, Robertj; Fellner, Christian; Dalcher, Debra; Koerber, Mike; Niebling, William; Powers, Tom; Mark, Jeremy; Victor, Meg; Esher, Diana; Arnold, David; Febbo, carol; Rehn, Brian; Mastro, Donna; Vyas, Himanshu; wentworth, paul; duke, gerallyn; Gordon, Michael; Ragland, Micah; Davis, Alison; Tejada, Matthew
Cc: Garvin, Shawn; Ashley, Jackie; Linn, Emily; Kreider, Andrew

Subject: RE: Mostly complete phone list of Pitts. 111(d) public hearing.

Hi Everyone,

Just so you all have it, my cell phone number is Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Thanks,

Angela

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2014 11:15 AM
To: egan, patrick; Wayland, Robertj; Fellner, Christian; Dalcher, Debra; Koerber, Mike; Niebling, William; Powers, Tom; Mark, Jeremy; Victor, Meg; Esher, Diana; Arnold, David; Febbo, carol; Rehn, Brian; Mastro, Donna; Vyas, Himanshu; wentworth, paul; duke, gerallyn; Gordon, Michael; Ragland, Micah; Hackel, Angela; Davis, Alison; Tejada, Matthew
Cc: Garvin, Shawn; Ashley, Jackie; Linn, Emily; Kreider, Andrew
Subject: RE: Mostly complete phone list of Pitts. 111(d) public hearing.

Updated with a few more numbers and corrected title. See you all soon - jan

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2014 4:07 PM
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Febbo, carol; Rehn, Brian; Mastro, Donna; Vyas, Himanshu; wentworth, paul; duke, gerallyn; Gordon, Michael; Ragland, Micah; Hackel, Angela
Subject:

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To: Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Wayland, Robertj
Sent: Thur 7/31/2014 1:58:31 AM
Subject: RE: Tomorrow

Angela –

I'm meeting some folks attending the hearing for breakfast at 7:00 am, so I will not make 7:15, but I will be there by 8-8:15 am as originally planned.

thanx!

bob

Robert J. Wayland, Ph.D.

Leader, Energy Strategies Group

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Sector Policies and Programs Division

Mail Code D243-01

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Office: (919) 541-1045

Cell: (919) 306-2290

Fax: (919) 541-5450

Email: wayland.robertj@epa.gov

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DRAFT/Deliberative Document - FOIA Exempt

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To: OAQPS SPPD[OAQPS_SPPD@epa.gov]
From: Johnson, Tanya
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 11:56:57 AM
Subject: FW: News Clips & PM News Clips - Tuesday, July 29, 2014

At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen – E&E News PM

Lawmakers spar on warming as EPA hearings heat up – E&E Daily News

In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan – ClimateWire

White House warns that delaying climate action will cost billions more – ClimateWire

NRDC political arm to launch 'Dirty Denier' ads targeting lawmakers who voted against climate action – E&E Daily News

AEP exec calls EPA power plant proposal 'not credible' – EnergyWire

Many Republicans did a U-turn on environmental issues in early 1990s -- study – ClimateWire

Push to speed up hiring gets bipartisan backing – E&E Daily News

Energy regulator seeks forum for grid reliability talks with EPA – E&E News PM

At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E reporter – E&E News PM

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

DENVER -- While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners.

Among the first speakers in a scheduled 11-hour session, Jones acknowledged that the trio of U.S. EPA officials tasked with overseeing the day's event could expect to hear the same arguments repeated over and over again.

"I appreciate you doing this, it must be mind-numbing, having sat on that side of the table," joked Jones, whose district includes Longmont, Colo.

Nearly three hours after Jones testified -- and dozens of witnesses, seated two at a time at the hearing table had their five minutes to speak -- he's been proven right, but the hearing is marching on with dozens of individuals expected to say their piece well into the evening.

In an interview outside the hearing, Jones said that despite his quip, he understands the importance of having a variety of individuals testify on the environmental regulation.

"People spend a lot of time getting ready to come in and talk to you. ... You never know when something's going to come up that you hadn't thought up -- that's what you're listening for," said Jones, whose own testimony focused on the impact of climate change on the state's wildfire season.

While many speakers cited statistics, Jones suggested that EPA officials could be equally affected by personal anecdotes. He pointed to the testimony of retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also addressed the panel during its morning session.

Citing his numerous respiratory illnesses, including black lung, Sturgill encouraged EPA to be more stringent in its rulemaking, telling the panel: "The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us."

But this isn't the first time Sturgill, a former federal mine inspector, has offered up his passionate appeal for stricter environmental standards.

In an interview outside the hearing, Sturgill noted his work with multiple groups, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. He said he once spent six months on parole after being arrested inside Rep. Hal Rogers' (R-Ky.) congressional office in an attempt to meet with his congressman.

"I just jumped right into the thick of it to challenge some of those environmental problems," Sturgill said of his decision to become an activist after retiring in 2009.

He appeared at the hearing today with a group of witnesses organized by the Massachusetts-based Civil Society Institute.

In the meantime, EPA officials expressed no concern that the hearing examiners, a mix of staff drawn from Denver, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., would have trouble remaining attentive throughout the day. Teams of three officials presided over each hearing room in four-hour shifts.

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.Top of the Document

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Lawmakers spar on warming as EPA hearings heat up

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter – E&E Daily News

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The most important climate change hearing in town today will be held miles down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol Building, but the listening session on U.S. EPA's marquee carbon rule is still drawing plenty of congressional interest.

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), a sponsor of the carbon dioxide cap-and-trade bill that cleared the House in 2009, will be among the first to testify on the existing power plant proposal this morning as the two-day listening session begins.

Markey commended EPA in prepared remarks for a draft rule that he said would make sure "millions of Americans are healthier" and create jobs. But he blasted Republicans for attacking the rule on economic grounds.

"If the critics of climate action like this EPA proposal spent more time believing in American innovation and less time attacking climate science, I believe our economy, our environment and our planet would all be better off," he said.

Massachusetts is a case in point, he said. By slashing carbon emissions, including through participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Bay State has grown its economy, he said.

"We've created good 21st century jobs," he said in the excerpted remarks. "We've reduced the amount of electricity we consume. And we pay less for that electricity."

Few members of Congress might visit the William Jefferson Clinton Building for the listening sessions today and tomorrow, though Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) does plan to make the trip tomorrow. Nonetheless, Congress will echo many of the same talking points at three climate-related hearings during the same two days.

And senators kicked off the debate last night when Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) objected to a resolution offered by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) that would have expressed the sense of the Senate that man-made climate change is real.

"The scientific record does not agree," said Inhofe, blocking Klobuchar's measure from passing by unanimous consent.

Inhofe, who is perhaps the chamber's most vocal climate skeptic, referenced the so-called climate change "pause" -- the fact that surface temperatures have slowed since 1998. Skeptics say that means climate change fears are overblown, but most climate scientists believe the oceans are storing much of the missing heat.

"Every time, they stand up and say, 'Oh, the science is settled,' and then we come up with more groups" that disagree, he said, pointing to a petition on his website that he said has been signed by thousands of scientists who disagree that man-made emissions are driving significant warming.

The continued drumbeat for climate-related policies like the EPA proposal is driven by interested Democratic donors, he said. But Australia's decision to abandon its carbon tax should show that climate change policy is harmful to the economy and should be avoided, he added.

"And I believe that we will be able to protect the American people from the senseless global warming policies in the United States," he said.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), speaking immediately after Inhofe, took a different view.

"I appreciate very much having had the opportunity to hear those words from what I can only describe as an alternative reality from the one that I inhabit," said Whitehouse, who will be chairing a Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee hearing later today on the economic toll taken by climate change.

Whitehouse, who also co-chairs the Senate Climate Action Task Force, dismissed Inhofe's contention that the science of man-made climate change is not settled. The petition on Inhofe's website is not signed by large numbers of unconvinced scientists, said Whitehouse.

"I'm told that among the names on that petition are the Spice Girls, are people from "M*A*S*H" like Dr. Frank Burns," said Whitehouse. "It's almost a comedic effort."

The oceans, meanwhile, are continuing to warm as a result of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, and the atmosphere appears to be warming in stages over many decades, he noted. Experts ranging from the Navy to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the property and casualty insurance and reinsurance industries urge the implementation of policies to combat its causes -- measures like the one EPA has proposed, he said.

"The day will come when the United States Senate can face the fact that climate change is real," he said,

referencing the Klobuchar resolution. "And it's a measure of our times and a measure of this body and a measure of the influence on it that it was not passed by unanimous consent but has been objected by the Republicans," he added.

This week, 1,600 speakers are expected to testify on EPA's draft rule in four cities: Washington, D.C.; Denver; Atlanta; and Pittsburgh. EPA has said it also has received 300,000 written comments on the proposal ahead of the Oct. 16 deadline for public review.Top of the Document

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In advance of public hearings, friends and foes weigh in on EPA Clean Power Plan

Nathanael Massey, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The country's capital saw a flurry of activity yesterday as green groups, think tanks, industries and policymakers drew out battle lines in advance of the public hearings, starting today and running through the week, on U.S. EPA's proposed rule for power plant carbon dioxide emissions.

The agency has already received more than 300,000 comments on the Clean Power Plan (CPP), which, once completed, would place binding emissions rate targets on state power sectors. But the hearings this week carry special weight, as they can act as a public forum for parties looking to defend or attack an already politically charged piece of legislation.

"We don't want to leave any ideas off the table," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, speaking about the sessions yesterday morning on a conference call with reporters. "All of the comments we receive will be equally accepted, and equally analyzed and considered."

In the four listening sessions, scheduled this week in Denver, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., interested parties will have the opportunity to voice concerns about or suggest changes to the rule, its various "building blocks" and its emissions rate targets. A number of state agencies have already voiced concerns about aspects of the CPP, and the listening sessions' rosters of speakers show a broad range of power producers, citizens' groups and trade associations that will likely have a financial stake in the shape of the final rule.

But more than a forum to discuss the CPP's basic architecture, the public hearings offer parties the opportunity to shape the narrative around EPA's work on climate change, along with the Obama administration's broader Climate Action Plan.

Dueling narratives

For groups opposed to the rule -- primarily the coal industry, affiliated trade groups and Republican policymakers -- that narrative has begun to form in two primary directions. First, they say, the rule would be economically disastrous, crippling the already constrained coal sector and pushing up electricity prices.

Second, they argue that by circumventing Congress, the president and EPA have exceeded their authority and extended the agency's reach into areas where it has no legal jurisdiction.

Both of these arguments were spelled out in open comments to McCarthy recently in a letter from the Partnership for a Better Energy Future, which includes a broad coalition of business and industry.

Those members "are united by widespread concerns that EPA's proposed rule -- which would institute a new regulatory framework on states transforming how electricity is generated, distributed, transmitted and used -- could eliminate the critical competitive advantage that affordable and reliable electricity provides to the American economy," they wrote.

More fundamentally, "the proposal is based on a flawed interpretation of the Clean Air Act," they wrote. "We therefore urge EPA to go back to the drawing board on this rule."

And even beyond regular critics of EPA and the Obama administration, the outpouring of comments yesterday showed the fissures that have emerged between the Democratic base and a few coal-state Democrats and labor groups that oppose the rule.

"As an organization of energy professionals, we understand how important renewable energy is to combating climate change and balancing our nation's energy portfolio," said Edwin Hill, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), in a statement. "But we don't have the alternative energy capacity necessary to replace the loss of that many power plants according to the EPA's timeline."

The IBEW plans to send its members to this week's public hearings to argue against the rule, Hill said.

'We can do this'

They'll be met by a strong show of support for the rule from green groups, which yesterday promised to deploy their own members and have reserved many of the allotted speaking slots for the coming hearings.

"Throughout the country, our members are going to turn out in force," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, in a conference call with reporters. "This plan can cut carbon, create jobs, make our air and water more clean, our economy more competitive. There is no doubt that this is a very big deal."

In the past two months since the CPP's launch, green groups and supportive Democrats have worked to paint the rule as the linchpin of the U.S. climate agenda. But they've also stressed their own interpretation of the plan's economic impacts, which they say could yield a net benefit to both energy customers and the economy.

That message was echoed yesterday by Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, who spoke alongside McCarthy during the conference call.

"We don't have to sacrifice a healthy economy for a healthy environment," she said, pointing out that the U.S. gross domestic product has tripled since the enactment of the Clean Air Act, while pollution has been cut by 70 percent.

"There are big benefits to both the public health and the economy in this rule, benefits that are still being overlooked," she said. "States already have a proven track record. We can do this."

Email: nmassey@eenews.netTop of the Document

White House warns that delaying climate action will cost billions more

Evan Lehmann, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Failing to act quickly on climate change could dramatically increase the cost of stemming carbon emissions, the White House warns in a report today that tests a new political message about "climate insurance."

The economic impact of reducing emissions will rise 40 percent for each decade that the United States delays in establishing an aggressive climate plan, according to the president's Council of Economic Advisers, which prepared the 33-page report.

One reason is because increasingly stringent policies could be needed to cut growing carbon output over a shorter period of time. Also, delaying research into new energy technologies, which might have been used earlier, could add to the economic burden. And if emissions continue, costs could grow sharply when crop production drops, flooding increases and drinking water becomes harder to obtain.

The report notes that "each year of delay means more CO2 emissions, so it becomes increasingly difficult, or even infeasible, to hit a climate target that is likely to yield only moderate temperature increases."

"These costs will take the form of either greater damages from climate change or higher costs associated with implementing more rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions," the report says. "In practice, delay could result in both types of costs."

Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Photo courtesy of the White House.

The document, which White House officials discussed with reporters yesterday, also claims that if the world fails to use less fossil fuels before average temperatures rise 3 degrees Celsius -- or 2 degrees higher than today -- the United States faces yearly economic losses of $150 billion. That amounts to about 1 percent of the nation's economy.

The report was released during a key week for the administration's climate agenda. U.S. EPA is holding several open meetings around the country to hear from critics and supporters of its proposed rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants. That is intensifying the messaging efforts on both sides, with implications for midterm elections, international climate negotiations and 2016 presidential campaigns.

Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said the report justifies President Obama's actions on climate change, which he enacted without congressional input. He said there's no dispute about the human role in rising temperatures, though he noted that its timing and magnitude are unknown.

"Some have pointed to that uncertainty and claimed that it's an argument for not acting today, waiting until we know more to act later," Furman told reporters yesterday on an embargoed conference call. "What this report makes clear is, first of all, we know way more than enough to justify acting today."

'Save us money' with climate insurance

The document continued the administration's effort to frame the issue in terms that the public might grasp. In the past, the White House has emphasized the health impacts of climate change and the moral obligation of preserving a planet for younger generations. Today, the administration is aiming at the practical person who crunches the numbers.

The report emphasizes the idea of "climate insurance."

It draws on economic research that peers into the consequences of abrupt climate events that could reshape the natural environment -- and the economic one. They include geologically sudden sea-level rise from melting ice sheets, bursts of carbon dioxide released from melting permafrost and extensive extinctions on land and underwater.

Under these scenarios, the cost of reducing emissions now might seem like a deal.

The report says, "just as the sufficiently high threat of a fire justifies purchasing homeowners insurance, the threat of large-scale losses from climate change justifies purchasing 'climate insurance' in the form of mitigation policies now and that taking actions today could help to avoid worst-case outcomes."

Added Furman, "Acting today will save us money."

The report did raise some eyebrows. Robert Stavins, a Harvard University economist who studies climate change, said it correctly emphasizes the global economic impact from rising temperatures -- and the idea that U.S. action on climate can prompt other nations to cut their carbon.

But he also said the report is "potentially misleading" in suggesting that a delay in American climate policies could lead to the dramatic scenarios outlined in the report. For example, the report fails to mention that a 3-degree-Celsius increase would be a massive failure by many nations, he said.

Stavins also noted that most of the economic benefits from reducing emissions at power plants would come from reductions in particulates, not carbon dioxide. Those benefits are already being anticipated as a result of EPA's climate rules on power plants. Cutting particulates is expected to save $45 billion by 2030 under EPA's rule, compared to $3 billion in climate benefits. That doesn't seem to be covered in the report.

"The greatest arguments would really be on localized air pollution," Stavins said.

Twitter: @evanlehmann | Email: elehmann@eenews.netTop of the Document

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NRDC political arm to launch 'Dirty Denier' ads targeting lawmakers who voted against climate action

Elana Schor, E&E reporter – E&E Daily News

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund plans to target members of Congress who have voted against federal action on climate change in a new "Dirty Denier" social media campaign set to run throughout next month's legislative recess.

NRDC's political arm, organized as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that can spend independently during election seasons, will name 20 lawmakers to its "Dirty" list every weekday that Congress is out of session in August, action fund director Heather Taylor-Miesle told reporters yesterday.

"With 99 days until the midterm elections," Taylor-Miesle said in a statement, GOP- and fossil fuel-linked groups "are running the same old attack ads, using the same old lies and scare tactics, and hoping the

American public is none the wiser. We can't let representatives and senators off the hook for voting against our best interests."

The campaign uses some of the same themes that Organizing for Action, the nonprofit formed to advance Obama administration priorities, employed last summer in a social media push that awarded unicorn trophies to 125 Republican lawmakers who had publicly questioned the human role in climate change (Greenwire, Aug. 19, 2013). NRDC has not specified whether its "Dirty Deniers" list will be bipartisan.

Twitter: @eschor | Email: eschor@eenews.netTop of the Document

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AEP exec calls EPA power plant proposal 'not credible'

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 - EnergyWire

American Electric Power's chief executive says the federal government's proposal to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants threatens the reliability of the electricity system and doesn't give utilities enough time to wean themselves off coal.

"The current plan is much too aggressive in many states," Nick Akins, AEP chairman, president and CEO, said to analysts last week.

Columbus, Ohio-based AEP serves 11 states, each with different targets in U.S. EPA's plan.

"The idea of natural gas generation to run at 70 percent capacity factor, when neither the plants, natural-gas-pipeline system or the electric system is in place to support it, is not credible," he said.

AEP and other utilities have banded together to demand more time and sound the alarm on future rate increases, but environmental groups say AEP and others had plenty of time to prepare.

"The proposed regulations are not a surprise and shouldn't be a surprise," said Trish Demeter, managing director of energy and clean-air programs for the Ohio Environmental Council.

Meanwhile, in its second quarter, AEP had a profit of $390 million, up from $338 million this quarter last year, and sales of $4 billion, up from $3.6 billion, in large part thanks to interstate transmission projects (Dan Gearino, *Columbus Dispatch*, July 26). **-- AI**Top of the Document

Many Republicans did a U-turn on environmental issues in early 1990s -- study

Evan Lehmann, E&E reporter - ClimateWire

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Support for environmental policies among Republican voters slackened sharply in the early 1990s after conservative lawmakers and their allies increasingly viewed the growing green movement as an enemy. Climate change produced one of the most striking shifts, according to new research.

Three social scientists recently studied the results of polling from 1974 to 2012 and found two distinct periods: The first 20 years are characterized as a harmonious time of "ideological convergence" around federal spending on the environment. Then, there was a "striking" change in the following two decades, as relatively small differences of opinion between the two parties on environmentalism grew into one of the most divisive issues in the nation.

"Since the early 1990s the U.S. conservative movement has become increasingly hostile towards environmental protection," says the study, which recently was accepted for publication in the journal *Social Science Research*. "Conservative foundations, think tanks, and elites have mobilized to challenge the legitimacy of environmental problems and thus undercut the necessity for government action to deal with them. This is especially the case with respect to anthropogenic climate change."

The research led by Aaron McCright, an associate professor at Michigan State University, found that Democratic and Republican voters were close to agreement on spending levels for the environment in the 1970s and '80s, with about 75 percent and 67 percent, respectively, saying the U.S. was spending too little in 1991. That was the last year before the "era of polarization," McCright says.

Things changed sharply beginning in 1992, after the dismantling of the Soviet Union. Republican Party leaders and their allies shifted their focus from the "Red Scare" to the "Green Scare," the paper says, citing past research. It also coincided with a rise in global environmental efforts, like the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and the election of President Clinton.

By 2012, about 70 percent of Democrats and 43 percent of Republicans believed more should be spent on environmental programs.

"I knew we would find political polarization (increasing political divide over time) in recent years," McCright said by email. "But even I was a bit surprised by the rather abrupt change in direction of conservatives' and Republicans' level of environmental concern in the early 1990s."

Rapid rise of the 'Green Scare'

The paper says these changes among Republican voters were driven by the party's lawmakers and policy wonks, who responded hostilely to rising international attention to climate change, ozone depletion and degraded biodiversity.

As "conservative foundations, think tanks, and leaders mobilized to challenge the legitimacy of these problems and thus undercut the need for government action to deal with them," ordinary Republicans adopted the party's sharpening ideology, the paper says.

The authors analyzed respondents' answers to the annual General Social Survey from 1974 to 2012, over which time nearly 48,000 responses were collected about whether the nation was spending too much on environmental protection, too little or about the right amount.

Throughout the years, Democrats have always supported more spending. But the gap between the two parties has grown dramatically. In 1990, for example, the difference was just 1 percentage point. The largest gap occurred in 2010, when Democratic support eclipsed that of Republicans by 29.7 percentage points. The average is 13.6 points.

The federal government has increased its spending on environmental programs. In 1974, U.S. EPA had a budget of $518 million, according to calculations by McCright. By 2012, it had risen to $8.5 billion.

McCright says that doesn't account for the rising Republican opposition to environmental spending.

He notes that prior to 1990, Republicans supported more environmental spending even as the agency's budget was on the rise.

"Only since the early 1990s were these two trends decoupled," McCright said.

Twitter: @evanlehmann | Email: elehmann@eenews.netTop of the Document

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Push to speed up hiring gets bipartisan backing

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter – E&E Daily News

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Legislation that would allow federal agencies to share information about job candidates is getting some traction.

Two House lawmakers last week rolled out a bipartisan measure that's aimed at cutting down on duplicative government work and speeding up the time it takes to process job applicants and hire new staffers. The bill, H.R. 5174, was introduced by Virginia Reps. Gerry Connolly (D) and Rob Wittman (R).

The "Competitive Service Act" mirrors S. 2541, a bill released last month by Democratic Sens. Jon Tester of Montana and Mark Begich of Alaska (*Greenwire*, June 27). Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) signed on last week as a co-sponsor.

Tester said the effort would make "government more efficient" and help "speed up the hiring process so we can make sure we have a strong federal workforce that is ready to serve the American people" by ending a current prohibition on agencies sharing their assessments of job applicants.

Lawmakers have recently warned that federal agencies are taking too long to get new employees on the job, leaving the government understaffed and slow on providing services (*E&E Daily*, May 7).

Twitter: @rbravender | Email: rbravender@eenews.netTop of the Document

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Energy regulator seeks forum for grid reliability talks with EPA

Katherine Ling, E&E reporter – E&E News PM

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Federal energy regulators should have a "formal role" in advising U.S. EPA on the grid reliability implications of its proposed regulation of carbon emissions at existing power plants, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member told lawmakers today.

Commissioner Philip Moeller (R) called for a "public and transparent" forum where engineers and "appropriate reliability experts" -- including the North American Electric Reliability Corp., electric wholesale market operators, power generators, electricity consumers and states -- can discuss technical aspects of the proposed Clean Air Act rule.

"Just as the commission does not have expertise in regulating air emissions, I would not expect the EPA to have expertise on the intricacies of electric markets and the reliability implications of transforming the electric generation sector," Moeller told the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power at a hearing on grid reliability under EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan.

"My point is that getting the electricity reliability experts together in a public and transparent forum to address these questions and develop answers is the responsible approach," he said. "Engineers can

debate and disagree on details, but presently there is no public forum for this discussion to occur."

EPA met with FERC staff six times to discuss the Clean Power Plan proposal -- five times before and once after the plan's release. Those meetings included only one discussion with acting FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LaFleur and no consultations with other commissioners, according to the commissioners (*E&E Daily*, July 29).

LaFleur extended the courtesy of providing excerpts of some of these discussions to her fellow commissioners, Moeller noted, but that is a decision that will rest with whoever takes the FERC gavel -- a hint at possible political turbulence ahead.

FERC leadership may change as LaFleur's recent Senate confirmation for a five-year term moved forward on a deal the White House cut with members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that would end her chairmanship in nine months. President Obama could then name a chairman of his own -- most likely Norman Bay, who was the White House's original pick to be chairman but faced criticism about his policy expertise even from some Democrats and needed this deal to get confirmed as the fifth FERC commissioner (*E&E Daily*, July 24).

LaFleur told reporters after the hearing that she was set to be sworn in by the White House for her second term this afternoon but that any announcements about her formally becoming chairwoman would be up to the administration. Bay does not have a date for when he will be sworn in yet, FERC spokeswoman Mary O'Driscoll said.

While LaFleur agreed that an ongoing dialogue between FERC and EPA would be important for the regulation, especially after it is finalized, she said any consultations on reliability could be handled as they have in the past now that the proposal is public and there are no restrictions regarding interagency review process.

FERC has a relationship with EPA and a history of working on grid concerns spurred by environmental regulations, she said.

For example, she said, FERC worked with EPA on the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule. FERC formed a Forum on Reliability and the Environment with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to review ongoing utility concerns in meeting environmental regulations. The FERC side was led by LaFleur and Moeller.

Although it is still very early in the process with a lot of variables because of each state plan, LaFleur said the forum allows for the continued discussion on reliability, as well as regular staff meetings with EPA.

"We already have an ongoing conversation," LaFleur said, "and I think that -- particularly as the rule gets finalized and goes into the implication phase -- we would reach out and they would be reaching out to us with questions."

Twitter: @lingkate6Top of the Document

Jean Walker
Policy Analysis and Communications Staff
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Phone: 919-541-5615 Fax: 919-541-2464

To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M[Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]; Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Cc: egan, patrick[egan.patrick@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:00:44 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose. I just learned that the hearings in Pittsburgh will not move. We still will hold them at the Federal building. I hope you still can meet with Alison and Pat on Wednesday afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM
To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose,

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Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

919-624-0872 (mobile)

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Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

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I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

Thanks very much Jose.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan,

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Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose –

I hope your family's move to Pittsburgh went smoothly. I wanted to touch base with you on a couple more questions about the hearings next Thursday and Friday.

I understand that the 2 rooms we will hold the hearings in will be on the 13th and the 15th floors. Could we set up a registration table somewhere on the entry floor just past security so we could send people from there to the correct rooms?

We've been brainstorming ideas to help people get efficiently around. I'm not sure what the elevator situation is like but is there any possibility that we could dedicate an elevator or 2 to this hearing. One that went to the 13th floor and another that went to the 15th floor would be fantastic.

Thanks for letting me know - jan

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ..I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

José M. Díaz
Area Commander
Federal Protective Service
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

412.395.4805 Office
717.275.5406 Blackberry

jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 01:43 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

Because of high interest in this topic, we have added a second hearing day so that we will be there July 31st and August 1st.We are getting a number of questions about the REAL Id Act. I am relieved to know you won't be implementing those requirements until the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did get a question today that I'd like to check with you about – will a NEXUS pass be accepted as appropriate ID? My guess was yes, but, I'm not expert. Could you, or an appropriate contact on your staff let me know.

Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day

outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

This is the last word so far from our HQ. "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014". So you should be OK. We'll let you know if we get more. If we get something more, Jose will likely let you know.

Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Chief Tirado/DC Gonzalez

Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

Once we get guidance on the subject,t we'll be able to come up with a plan of action if needed.

Thanks

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

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From: Gonzalez, Kenneth L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Miller, Harold L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny

Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

Thanks

Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service
215.521.2132

From: Miller, Harold L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Ken, Johnny or anyone,

I don't have information on the startup on the Real ID Act enforcement and if FPS is going to be enforcing it? I heard through non-official means it was going to be delayed? EPA has a concern it may interfere with a public forum it's holding here in the Federal Building 7/31/14, which is 10 days after the current planned start date. EPA is also concerned that since the state of Kentucky apparently isn't making Fed Gov't approved ID, this could be a larger issue for them since they estimate many from Kentucky will appear at the forum.

If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Hal

Harold L. Miller II

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Hal – Thanks for all of your help on this issue. I'm just checking back in with you – I haven't heard anything further on this request. - jan

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL

ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M[Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]; Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Cc: egan, patrick[egan.patrick@epa.gov]
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Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM
To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

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José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

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Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ..I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

This message (including any attachments) may contain confidential and or law enforcement sensitive (LES) information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and should be considered for official use only. (FOUO) DHS 11042.1 (03/05)

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

José M. Díaz
Area Commander
Federal Protective Service
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

412.395.4805 Office
717.275.5406 Blackberry

jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 01:43 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

Because of high interest in this topic, we have added a second hearing day so that we will be there July 31st and August 1st.We are getting a number of questions about the REAL Id Act. I am relieved to know you won't be implementing those requirements until the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did get a question today that I'd like to check with you about – will a NEXUS pass be accepted as appropriate ID? My guess was yes, but, I'm not expert. Could you, or an appropriate contact on your staff let me know.

Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day

outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

This is the last word so far from our HQ. "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014". So you should be OK. We'll let you know if we get more. If we get something more, Jose will likely let you know.

Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Chief Tirado/DC Gonzalez

Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

Once we get guidance on the subject,t we'll be able to come up with a plan of action if needed.

Thanks

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Gonzalez, Kenneth L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Miller, Harold L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny

Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

Thanks

Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service
215.521.2132

From: Miller, Harold L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Ken, Johnny or anyone,

I don't have information on the startup on the Real ID Act enforcement and if FPS is going to be enforcing it? I heard through non-official means it was going to be delayed? EPA has a concern it may interfere with a public forum it's holding here in the Federal Building 7/31/14, which is 10 days after the current planned start date. EPA is also concerned that since the state of Kentucky apparently isn't making Fed Gov't approved ID, this could be a larger issue for them since they estimate many from Kentucky will appear at the forum.

If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Hal

Harold L. Miller II

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Hal – Thanks for all of your help on this issue. I'm just checking back in with you – I haven't heard anything further on this request. - jan

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL

ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: McMichael, Nate[McMichael.Nate@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]
From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:21:22 PM
Subject: Re: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

We're not turning folks away here in Atlanta, we're asking for their names and telling them that we will do our best to work them in.

Adding Denver folks. Enesta, can you check in with Mary on DC.

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Purchia, Liz; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Flagging for your attention. Reporter asking about speakers being turned away from today's hearing. Deadline is noon. - George

From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

Hi,

I've been told by several groups that they were not able to get a time slot to testify during the CPP hearings being held today. Has the agency had to give cancellations to a lot of groups? Was there a particular way the agency prioritized the way it gave away time slots?

Please let me know ASAP. My deadline is noon. Thanks.

Best,

Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]
From: McMichael, Nate
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:38:05 PM
Subject: Re: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Not turning away in Denver. Registered speakers are signing in and we're trying to accommodate everyone that we can.

Those that did not register but want to comment still can until 10/16 through website.

Nate McMichael
USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
202 564 0382 (o)
202 236 4176 (c)

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Hull, George; Purchia, Liz; Jones, Enesta
Cc: McMichael, Nate; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura
Subject: Re: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

We're not turning folks away here in Atlanta, we're asking for their names and telling them that we will do our best to work them in.

From: Hull, George
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Purchia, Liz; Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea
Subject: FW: Clean Power Plan hearings; DDL Noon Today

Flagging for your attention. Reporter asking about speakers being turned away from today's hearing. Deadline is noon. - George

From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
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Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

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To: Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]
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USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
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[redacted]

We're not turning folks away here in Atlanta, we're asking for their names and telling them that we will do our best to work them in.

Adding Denver folks. Enesta, can you check in with Mary on DC.

[redacted]

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From: Michael Bastasch [mailto:mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Press
Subject: Clean Power Plan hearings

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Please let me know ASAP. My deadline is noon. Thanks.

Best,

Mike

--
Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation

(202) 463-5058

To: Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Johnson, Alisha[Johnson.Alisha@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Allen, Laura
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 2:55:50 PM
Subject: Fw: Atlanta Hearing Clips 7/30

Morning, here's some additional clips from yesterday. The AJC story appeared on front page. Still watching for the creative loafing story... they must be more relaxed on posting schedule #loafingjokes

This am, we have two freelance reporters in attendance:
David Smith
Ted speaker (working on a documentary on climate change)

From: Durley, Kamari <Durley.Kamari@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:07 AM
To: Allen, Laura
Cc: Smith, Dylan
Subject: Atlanta Hearing Clips 7/30

Hey please find all articles below.

EPA climate proposals draw fire, praise

Posted: 7:08 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, 2014

EmailFacebookTwitterShareThis

By Matt Kempner - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Georgia officials and business leaders warned Tuesday that federal plans to cut climate-change pollutants from electricity plants will likely increase power bills in the state.

“It will increase Georgia rates. I guarantee you that,” Chuck Eaton, who chairs the Georgia Public Service Commission, said outside a hearing in Atlanta on the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rules. The session is one of four held around the nation to gather public input at the state or local level.

- Key Georgia points on the EPA rules debate

But the effect on rates isn't so clear cut, according to the state's largest utility.

Ron Shipman, Georgia Power's vice president of environmental affairs, warned that rates could rise if the company is forced to further limit its use of cheap and reliable coal as fuel. One aspect of the EPA proposal could cost consumers $4 billion to $5 billion over about 10 years, he told a panel of agency officials.

In a follow-up interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, however, Shipman said the company is still reviewing shifting potentials — and that it's possible rates could even go down with the changes.

"It could be more, it could be less. We don't know yet," Shipman said.

The EPA proposed new guidelines nearly two months ago, but the agency is still early in the rule-making process. There is no guarantee on where final restrictions might end up.

The government wants Georgia to slice emissions 44 percent by 2030 compared to 2005. That's more than all but six states.

Federal officials say the rules give state regulators flexibility in determining how to make reductions. Options include improving power plant efficiency, boosting consumer and business energy efficiency, reducing the use of plants that spit out lots of carbon and adding electricity from nuclear plants or alternative sources such as solar.

That uncertainty complicated the first day of hearings on the White House's farthest reaching attempt to reduce carbon emissions that scientists say worsen destructive climate change.

At the Atlanta hearing, speakers from around the Southeast including environmental activists, business group leaders, doctors and politicians both criticized and praised the proposed limits on power plants. Sessions ran simultaneously in two rooms of the Omni Hotel, and a second session is scheduled Wednesday. All speaking slots have been filled.

"We need to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of global warming," said Jennette Gayer, director of advocacy group Environment Georgia.

Seth Gunning of the Sierra Club said Georgia officials' decisions on how to meet the new guidelines will determine the financial impact, including whether significant numbers of jobs are created. He predicts electric rates will drop if Georgia focuses on increased energy efficiency and use of alternative energy such as solar power.

Others who spoke inside and outside of Tuesday's Atlanta hearing said there are costs of not taking firm action to slow climate change. The concerns ranged from damaging coastal flooding to greater pest infestations in Georgia's lucrative agricultural industry.

Kelvin Cochran, fire chief for the city of Atlanta, said emergency workers face worsening weather and natural disasters locally. "The cost of not doing something is going to be far greater from a public safety perspective," he said.

Others predicted that new federal rules will unwisely and illegally undo carefully constructed energy plans laid out by states.

Chris Clark, president of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, said power companies could lose

flexibility to choose the most cost-effective fuels, increasing electric rates and hurting rural areas and small businesses.

An agribusiness leader predicted the rules would drive up the cost of natural gas, boosting the price of fertilizer and other farm operations.

Georgia Power's Shipman said that, "While the overall cost of EPA's proposal cannot be quantified at this point, EPA's guidelines clearly force us away from economically operating our generating fleet to the benefit of customers."

He cited as one example that Georgia Power customers pay could pay $5 billion in higher rates over a decade just from the cost of administering and adding incentives for expanded consumer energy efficiency programs.

Eaton, the chairman of Georgia's PSC, which regulates some utilities, said new federal rules wouldn't give states as much flexibility as federal regulators claim.

"It's basically handcuffing us to natural gas and nuclear," Eaton said. "If you take coal out of the mix, we don't have anything to fall back to" if natural gas prices rise sharply.

http://www.myajc.com/news/business/epa-climate-proposals-draw-fire-praise/ngqhT/

Macon Telegraph- EPA's carbon dioxide decision could mean big changes for Plant Scherer

BY MAGGIE LEE

mlee@macon.comJuly 29, 2014 Updated 11 hours ago

A large water main break in Westwood sent water...

ATLANTA -- What would happen to Plant Scherer if the federal government decides to implement carbon dioxide pollution cuts isn't settled, according to Georgia Power. It will all depend on the final shape of the rule and if coal is taken out of play.

Burning coal to create electricity is one of the "arrows in the quiver" that it takes to create reliable, affordable energy for their customers, said Ron Shipman, Georgia Power's vice president of -environmental affairs, after Tuesday hearings in Atlanta held by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"What this (proposed) rule does, it takes one of those arrows out of the quiver and one of those arrows is coal. ... We'd like to keep that arrow in the quiver," he said.

The utility has not yet analyzed what the draft rule would mean for Scherer or any of its other plants, he said, because the rule could change a lot between now and when the rule would be enforced.

The federal EPA's proposal would have Georgia cut the carbon intensity of its power generation from 1,500 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour of electricity in 2012 to 834 pounds by 2030. Two nuclear power units under construction at Plant Vogtle on the Savannah River would contribute to the drop.

The only cost Shipman ventured was $4 billion to $5 billion over about a decade for energy efficiency measures, such as the rebates Georgia Power sometimes pays to customers switching to more energy-efficient appliances.

Plant Scherer is one of the biggest coal power plants in the country. In part because of its size, it's also tops for carbon dioxide emissions, a gas that the EPA says drives climate change. Scherer meets the rules for controlling nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury and particulates, but the EPA proposal would be the first nationwide rule on carbon dioxide emissions to apply to existing power plants.

That might cause utilities to shift away from coal and more toward natural gas generation, a fuel with a lower carbon intensity.

It's been a fairly cheap fuel lately compared to coal. But if coal is out, said Shipman, "no matter what gas prices do, our customers would be at the mercy of that fluctuation in price," he said, specifying that it could be cheap or it could be pricey.

About 2.4 million Georgians get their power from Georgia Power. The electric membership corporations that serve the rest of Georgia get most of their power from either Georgia Power plants, or they co-own plants with the big utility.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said her agency knows that coal and natural gas play a significant role in the country's energy mix. But she has also said there are opportunities to move toward nuclear, wind and solar power.

"If coal is taken out of the mix, the price goes up" for customers, said Flint Energies Senior Vice President Jimmy Autry. He estimated the price rise at 15 to 30 percent.

"I meet people who can't pay their bills now," much less pay a higher price, he said.

Autry's also worried about a run on natural gas. Due to demand on one cold day this January, he said, utilities were "dangerously close" to not being able to power everybody.

"If we lose more coal generation ... then there may not be electricity at any price," he said.

In 2013, Georgia Power announced plans to close some of its coal- and oil-fired units, including Plant Branch in Milledgeville.

Larry Warthen, president of the Washington County-based Fall-line Alliance for a Clean

Environment, favors the proposed rule, in part because two of his grandchildren have asthma, he said.

“No child should have limited access to enjoy the great outdoors and do the normal things that kids do without an inhaler,” Warthens told EPA officials at the hearing.

“Right now, we limit mercury, arsenic, lead, soot and other damaging pollutants from coal burning power plants. Please, let’s do the same for carbon pollution,” he said.

Carbon itself is not thought to cause asthma, but it is thought to contribute to higher temperatures which, the EPA says, do trigger smog, asthma and longer allergy seasons.

Washington County farmer Lyle Lansdell said farming is hard enough without “the weather that is made more erratic by global warming.”

Two years ago, she said, the temperature in her area hit 102 degrees in May -- earlier than normal. One year ago, mostly in June, she had 49 inches of rain, when the norm is more like 7 inches for that month.

“Try to imagine growing vegetables and livestock in those two extreme conditions,” she said.

Lansdell said the longer that carbon controls are delayed, the worse the damage would be.

“I believe that human beings are unfortunately short-sighted,” said Lansdell, urging the EPA to adopt the rule.

The public comment period on the rule closes Oct. 16. The EPA is set to make any new rule next June.

http://www.macon.com/2014/07/29/3223230/epas-carbon-dioxide-decision-could.html#storylink=cpy

Georgia Public Radio- EPA Hearings Debate Takes Center Stage in Downtown Atlanta

By Claire Simms

Updated: 16 hours ago

ATLANTA —

While the EPA hearings went on inside the Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta, a crowd rallied outside to support the Clean Power Plan. (Photo Credit: Claire Simms, GPB News)

People from all over the country gathered in downtown Atlanta to give public comments at hearings that could have a huge impact on the **EPA's new Clean Power Plan.**

The Environmental Protection Agency released the plan last month, which calls for a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. Under the plan, the EPA will set individual state-by-state carbon emissions goals. Opponents of the plan say it will hurt the economy and punishes energy industry workers.

Rep. Chuck Martin, R- Alpharetta, was one of the first people to speak at the Atlanta hearings on Tuesday at the Omni Hotel. He does not support the plan because he fears it is unrealistic and will hurt the entire economy.

"Ladies and gentlemen, if coal comes off the trains, all the other products that ride on the trains are going to get more expensive in your department store, in your grocery store," said Martin. "If you don't believe that that will have a negative impact on the economy, then we just differ."

State Representative Mike Dudgeon, R- Johns Creek, spoke just a few blocks away from the hearings at a rally hosted by Americans For Prosperity.

"This is not about solar versus coal versus green. It's about common sense and it's about the economy," said Dudgeon to a crowd of people wearing "Stop The EPA" t-shirts.

Among them was Claire Harrison, who lives in Alpharetta. She says the EPA's plans could hurt more than help.

"The quality of our air and water is very, very high," said Harrison. "I think in this hurting economy when we have negative economy growth this last period, people don't know how they're going pay their next energy bill, much less it going up 30 percent."

The EPA plan, however, outlines that improved efficiency will cut energy costs by eight percent over the next 16 years. The agency also reports the reduction in carbon emissions from coal-powered plants will improve air quality, cutting down on asthma and other chronic health conditions. The EPA estimates that could lead to climate and

health benefits of 55 to 93 billion dollars in the year 2030.

Mary Anne Hitt is the director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign. She and dozens of others rallied at Centennial Park in support of the plan.

“We know that climate disruption and air pollution threaten our kids today and cast a very long, dark shadow over their future,” Hitt told the crowd.

Karen Grainey stood directly behind Hitt at the rally with a "Savannah Clean Energy" sign. The chair of the Savannah Sierra Club, she and 50 other people from the Chatham area boarded a bus to be at the hearings and show their support for the plan. Grainey says people who live on the state's barrier islands are particularly susceptible to pollution driven climate change.

“We’re a vulnerable population because of the increase in storm activity, hurricanes, flooding, sea level rise,” said Grainey. “We’re really at the front line of all of those problems and so, if you live on the coast, this should be concerning to you.”

The EPA's Atlanta hearings will continue Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

http://www.gpb.org/news/2014/07/29/epa-hearings-debate-takes-center-stage-in-downtown-atlanta

WABE 90.1 Atlanta NPR- Rallies Held Downtown For and Against Proposed EPA Regulations

By MARYLEE WILLIAMS

Proponents and opponents of these regulations voiced their opinions at rallies downtown.

Environmental activists from across the Southeast hoisted signs reading "Climate Action Now" in Woodruff park at the "Rally for Clean Energy."

GreenLaw organized the event, which included speakers, testimony and music.

Theater technician Kevin McKinney participated in the rally and march to Centennial Park. He explained the EPA carbon regulations are crucial for the future.

"We are pushing our climate past levels we have seen during the entire existence of the human race practically," McKinney said. "That's admittedly a worst case scenario and that's admittedly a while off, but that's the direction we're going so we have to change course now because it's not a trivial task."

Another protest held simultaneously at the Sam Nunn Federal Building was called "Stop the EPA Power Grab." Opponents of the proposed regulations said they would leave consumers with high electricity bills and have a negative impact on jobs in the state.

Speakers at this event included officials from Americans for Prosperity and state representatives.

The EPA's public hearings will continue Wednesday in the Omni Hotel.

http://wabe.org/post/rallies-held-downtown-and-against-proposed-epa-regulations

Jul 29, 2014, 11:50am EDT

Atlanta Business Chronicle- Supporters, critics of EPA carbon reduction plan sound off in Atlanta

Dave Williams

Staff Writer

A federal plan to reduce pollution from coal-fired power plants would reverse climate change and improve the health of respiratory disease sufferers, a parade of environmental activists testified Tuesday.

But two members of the Georgia Public Service Commission told a three-member Environmental Protection Agency panel the EPA's proposal to cut carbon emissions 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 would force Atlanta-based Georgia Power Co. to abandon coal plants the utility is already retrofitting with improved pollution controls, a wasted investment that would force up electric rates.

The EPA is holding public hearings in Atlanta and three other cities across the country this week to gather input on a plan the agency released early last month.

Coal plants are the nation's largest source of greenhouse gases, accounting for one-

third of domestic emissions. The 50 dirtiest – including several in Georgia – emit more carbon pollution than all but six countries, Jeannette Gayer, director of Environment Georgia, testified Tuesday.

"Global warming is not a problem Georgia can tackle on its own," she said. "But we can certainly benefit if it's tackled successfully."

But the EPA plan would require Georgia Power to retire coal plants that currently are generating 3,900 megawatts of electricity, in addition to the 3,000 megawatts of generating capacity from coal plants the utility already is planning to retire, said Chuck Eaton, chairman of the Public Service Commission.

"EPA's proposed rule would effectively require a redesign of the state's energy plan without regard to cost," he said.

Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald said Georgia already is making great strides in bringing solar energy online without federal mandates.

"Please leave us alone!" he urged the panel. "We see the goals ourselves and know how to achieve them."

While the Georgia Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the EPA plan, some business organizations are siding with the agency.

Jim Doyle, founder and CEO of Business Forward, a group of small business owners, testified that the disruptions caused by severe weather linked to climate change are hurting companies' bottom lines more than the projected higher costs of electricity under the EPA proposal.

"Each hour of disruption at an auto assembly plant costs $1.25 million in lost production," he said.

Other witnesses told the EPA panel reducing the role of coal in power production would boost business opportunities for the renewable energy industry and companies that manufacture energy efficiency technology.

The two-day hearing will run through Wednesday at the Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

The EPA is accepting written comments on the plan through Oct. 16.

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/blog/capitol_vision/2014/07/supporters-critics-of-epa-carbon-reduction-plan.html?page=all

http://www.myajc.com/news/business/key-georgia-points-on-the-epa-rules-debate/ngqhZ/

http://www.myajc.com/news/business/epa-climate-proposals-draw-fire-praise/ngqhT/

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To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]
From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 4:18:12 PM
Subject: Fw: Response on Coal Country Questions

FYI

Monica Lee
202-564-0645 (o)
202-713-6902 (c)

From: Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 9:48 AM
To: Jones, Enesta; Drinkard, Andrea; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; McMichael, Nate; Davis, Alison; Seneca, Roy; White, Terri-A; Smith, Paula; Lincoln, Larry; Johnson, Alisha; Hull, George
Subject: Response on Coal Country Questions

If you get asked about why we didn't hold hearings in KY or "coal country", below is language that I think will be helpful. Specifically see the bullets on PA. The United Mine Workers put out a release today critiquing us for not going to "coal country"

EPA appreciates the tremendous interest in the proposed Clean Power Plan. We've met with 60 different groups in just the first 25 business days after our proposal. We've received more than 300,000 comments so far, and expect many more. We want no stone unturned; and no good idea off the table.

We are holding four, two-day, public hearings at locations across the country--Washington, D.C., Denver, Atlanta and Pittsburgh. We chose locations in different regions, as well as the nation's capital, that are easily accessible and that had space available during the timeframe we needed. People also can comment on the proposal by email, fax or letter: EPA considers all comments equally, no matter how they are submitted. The comment period on the proposal is open until October 16, 2014. Instructions on how to comment are available at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/how-comment-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule

Coal will remain a critical part of America's energy mix for the foreseeable future. EPA's carbon pollution proposal provides each state with enormous flexibility in determining how to meet its pollution reduction goals, and does not mandate the retirement of any coal plants.

In addition we're working with the unions and listening to their concerns. We've had many meetings and heard from many communities about coal jobs. We welcome comments and ideas on how to help communities diversify their economies and attract new sources of job-creating investment.

If you get specific questions from reporters who push the Mineworkers argument, you may want to respond more directly. Below is some language to consider.

•□□□□□□□□ Western PA is in the heart of Appalachian coal country *or* the people of western PA would be surprised to learn that they're not considered part of coal country.

•□□□□□□□□ PA has the third-highest number of coal miners in the nation.

•□□□□□□□□ The state with the second highest number of coal miners in the nation, West Virginia, is less than an hour's drive away from Pittsburgh.

•□□□□□□□□ The fact that scores of people from Appalachia are scheduled to testify at the Pittsburgh hearing, and thousands more plan to exercise their first amendment rights around the city, suggests that it is easily accessible and that EPA's decision to site its hearing there to get a multiplicity of views from people across the region was a good one.

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

To: Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 11:02:05 PM
Subject: Fw: Denver hearing coverage

Monica Lee
202-564-0645 (o)
202-713-6902 (c)

From: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Johnson, Alisha; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Millett, John; McMichael, Nate; Davis, Alison
Cc: McGrath, Shaun; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Subject: Denver hearing coverage

Hi all- here's a collection of some of the more significant clips related to the Denver hearing today, including several articles from the Denver Post.

Rich

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_26232488/epa-greenhouse-gas-plan-could-up-pressure-colorado

EPA greenhouse-gas plan could up pressure on Colorado power utilities

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

A two-day hearing by the federal Environmental Protection Agency is being held in Denver. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Colorado is further along in cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states — the question is how far along and what would be the impact of proposed federal rules.

Those issues will be at the core of a two-day hearing held by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Denver starting Tuesday.

The proposed EPA rule seeks to cut emissions of carbon dioxide — the largest man-made greenhouse gas by volume — by 30 percent nationwide by 2030.

The EPA is proposing the rules under the Clean Air Act to blunt the gas, which scientific studies show traps extra heat in the atmosphere.

Other power plant pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and mercury, also are regulated under the act. The EPA proposal sets targets for each state based on the local power supply and existing energy policies and calls for each state to develop its own reduction plan. Colorado has a 35 percent target.

"We are not done yet, but all the polices in place make it doable for Colorado," said Stacey Tellinghuisen, an analyst with the Boulder-based environmental policy group Western Resource Advocates.

An analysis by Western Resources Advocates estimates that with just Colorado's existing programs the state's carbon emissions will be cut 28 percent by 2030.

Some industry and utility executives are wary of the proposed rules impacts.

"The EPA is placing state regulators in a difficult position to craft complex plans in a short period of time," said Lee Boughey, a spokesman for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., Colorado's second-largest electricity provider.

The regulations focus on coal-fired power plants, the nation's single largest source of carbon dioxide, contributing nearly 29 percent of the emissions in 2012.

That has drawn the ire of the mining industry.

"These regulations will hurt jobs and the economy," said Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association.

A study done for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy, a trade group, estimated that the West could lose 9,000 mining jobs as the result of the regulations.

Colorado has a renewable energy standard that requires investor-owned utilities — Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy — to get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Rural electric cooperatives, many members of Tri-State, have a 20 percent standard.

The state also requires energy efficiency programs for the investor-owned utilities.

Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest electricity provider, has already added renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Under the 2010 Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act, Xcel agreed to a $1.1 billion program to close six aging coal-fire plants, add pollution controls at two others and build a cleaner-burning gas fired plant for a total of about $1 billion.

The EPA rules, however, use 2012 as the starting point for emission cuts.

"We just want to make sure we get credit for the billions of dollars in investments we've made," said Jack Ilhe, Xcel's director of environmental policy. "We feel strongly that companies and states that have been proactive shouldn't be punished."

In 2010, Xcel generated 60 percent of its energy from coal. By 2020, coal will provide 48 percent of the electricity and renewable sources 29 percent, according to the company

In a press conference call Monday, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said the 2012 starting date was necessary to "implement the Clean Air Act as intended."

The Western Resource Advocates reading of the proposed rule would allow Colorado to count all the renewable energy it has created, most of the Clean Air-Clean Jobs carbon cuts and some energy efficiency savings.

The proposed rule offers four sources of carbon reductions: energy efficiency, improving coal plant efficiency, renewable energy and increased use of natural gas.

"It isn't limited to those four building blocks," McCarthy said. "States have the smarts and skill to pull this off."

Even with the gains in renewable energy and efficiency, in 2012, 65 percent of Colorado's electricity came from coal, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

"Colorado gets to meet its goals, even with all that coal generation, because in truth the bar in the rule is set very low," said Leslie Glustrom, research director for Boulder-based Clean Energy Action.

"But if you are trying to lose weight or quit smoking, you don't go cold turkey, you do it in steps," Glustrom said.

E&E : CLIMATE:

Green hoopla dominates start of EPA hearings on power plant rule

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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Hundreds of supporters of the Obama administration's flagship climate change rule turned the grounds around the U.S. EPA headquarters into a green carnival this morning as the agency opened the first public hearings on the proposal in Washington, D.C.

Stoking enthusiasm outside the William Jefferson Clinton Building was Ben & Jerry's, which handed out free cookie dough and fudge ice cream to rule backers -- notably children organized by the Moms Clean Air Task Force. The group is also staging "play-ins" at the other three EPA listening sessions this week in Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh.

Eight-year-old Logan Sheehan interrupted his pre-rally parachute play to say this wasn't his first go at civic engagement. He had already met Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) at a similar event last month at the Capitol, he said.

Asked what he remembered about that event, the rising third-grader answered, "Not much." He'll join his mom, Trisha Sheehan of Winona, N.J., who's scheduled to testify in the Clinton building later today.

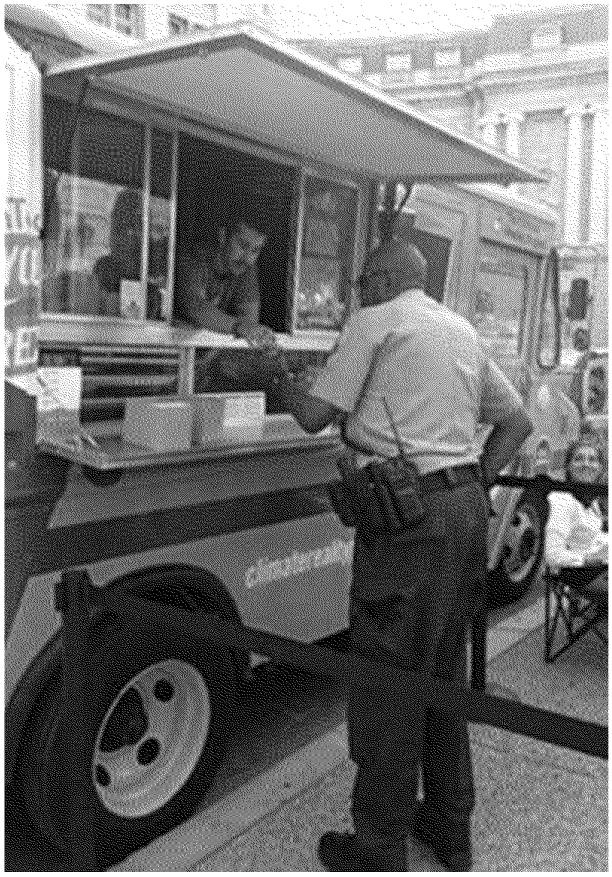
Sheehan said she first became engaged in environmental issues after last September's Paulsboro, N.J., train derailment, which released toxic fumes into her town's air.

"Something bigger than me needs to be done to protect my children's future from dirty air," she said. "So that's what really spurred me into activism."

The outdoor rally coordinated by major environmental groups -- including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund and Environment America -- featured whirligigs, bongo drums and speeches.

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), fresh from his testimony in support of the rule, told the crowd that U.S. engagement on the issue is important, even before other countries take similar steps.

"We can't preach temperance from a bar stool," he said. "We have to be the leaders if we want China and India to follow."



A Climate Reality Project truck handed out scoops of Ben & Jerry's ice cream outside of U.S. EPA's Washington, D.C., headquarters this morning. Photo by Robin Bravender.

The coal industry's lone outdoor ad was an electronic billboard parked on Constitution Avenue in front of the Clinton building. The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity offering faced off against another video billboard sponsored by the Climate Action Campaign, which helped coordinate messaging for

national environmental groups.

At the hearing, EPA staffers sat at a table listening as commenters came forward two by two to give testimony on the June 2 proposal, which could lead to a substantial restructuring of the electric power system as it seeks to reduce the sector's emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The lineup of speakers included several politicians. Markey was joined by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) in morning testimony, while Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) testified against the rule in a separate room.

Capito said in her prepared testimony that the rule would be disastrous for her state's coal-based economy.

"With this unprecedented rule, the EPA has gone far beyond requiring existing coal plants operate as efficiently as possible," she said. "Instead, the very framework for this rule is built around shifting the country away from coal. The federal government has no business picking winners and losers in the energy economy, but that's exactly what the EPA's new rule would do."

Priority for greens

The hearings, which will continue in Washington, Denver and Atlanta tomorrow and Pittsburgh on Thursday, are aimed at providing EPA with feedback on its proposal. The agency's acting air chief Janet McCabe stood in the back of the hearing room through part of the morning's testimony.

National environmentalists have made protecting the rule from congressional and industry attacks a top priority. Their leaders expressed optimism this morning that they would succeed.

Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's newly minted president and CEO, said the environmental community would continue to present the rule as workable. O'Mara, who previously worked as chief of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, said his time there proved to him that regional programs like the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative can succeed and can be cost-effective.

Advocates of EPA's climate rule held up signs of support outside the agency while friends and foes of the draft regulation squared off inside. Photo by Robin Bravender.

"Using that as a counter-example to some of the talking points on the other side" should be effective, he said. NWF's plan will be to work with "more moderate" lawmakers of both parties to avoid a fight over the rule, he added.

"I am absolutely committed to being much more focused on protecting wildlife and connecting more folks in their communities," said O'Mara, who just oversaw a staffing shakeup at NWF (*see related story*). That local focus is in part due to the gridlock in Washington, he said.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the rule has more supporters than its opponents believe, in part because of the method EPA followed in writing it.

"I think there's great appreciation around the country including from some public business for the fact that Gina McCarthy went out and listened to the concerns of people in the business community and incorporated a lot of the flexibility they were looking for in the rule," said Krupp, who has worked with business interests on similar issues in the past, including to enact cap and trade.

Krupp said that although the power plant rule is important, it is not the only action EPA can take to protect the climate. His group has worked extensively to improve data on methane released during natural gas development and has urged the agency to consider rules for those heat-trapping emissions.

"We could get roughly the same benefit in 2025 from a good rule closing methane leaks as we could get from the power plant rule," he said.

The White House set up this week's listening sessions by releasing a report this morning warning of the economic costs of delaying action to address climate change (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

Denver hearing

At EPA's Region 8 headquarters in Denver, testimony also skewed in favor in the regulations among the first few witnesses to speak during an expected 11 hours of statements.

Retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also advocates for mine safety, praised EPA for proposing new regulations but called on the agency to offer a more stringent version of its plan.

"The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front-line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us," Sturgill said.

His remarks drew a show of silent applause -- in which individuals raise their hands and wiggle their fingers -- from a half-dozen adults and children in the audience dressed in turquoise T-shirts with the statement "I [heart] Clean Air."

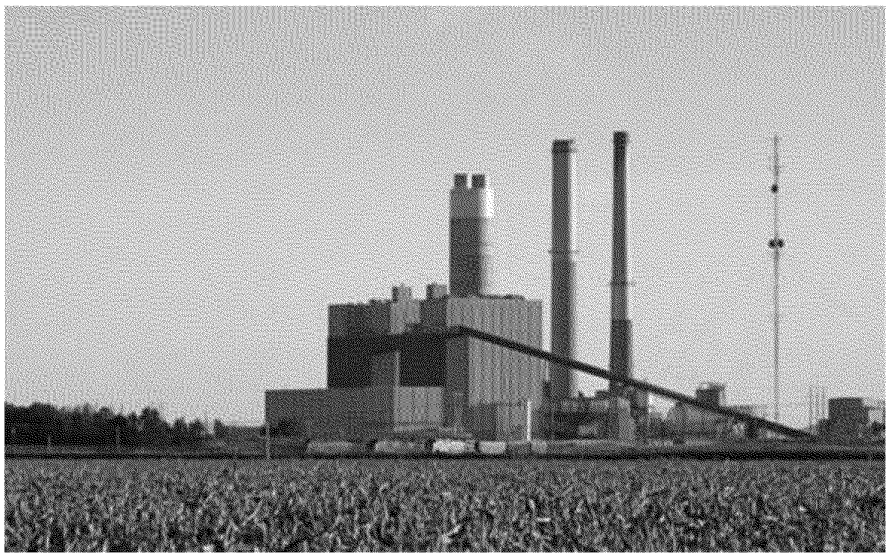
Those objecting to the proposed rules framed new regulations as an economic disaster in waiting.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity both for Moffat County and for the nation. ... Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid said in the first remarks of the session. "This isn't some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of northwest Colorado, to us this is personal."

During the first hour of the hearing, testimony in one of two rooms set up for the session was periodically slowed by technical difficulties as microphones provided to witnesses failed to work, and at one point sound from another room was apparently piped into the hearing room.

Reporter Jennifer Yachnin in Denver contributed.

AP: New EPA rules for power plant pollution draw criticism



The Ameren Corp. coal-fired power plant, seen here in 2013, sits outside the southern Illinois town of Newton. *(The Associated Press)*

Print

By The Associated Press
Follow on Twitter
on July 29, 2014 at 11:16 AM, updated July 29, 2014 at 11:20 AM

DENVER — Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with

2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

More information

Guidelines to submit written comments to the EPA: http://tinyurl.com/qetmzaj

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies, religious and civil rights organizations and others sent representatives to the hearings.

John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA in Denver the rules would devastate the economy in his area, home to a major power plant.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," he said. "Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan."

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and the public's. He suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases, Sturgill said.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

In Atlanta, elected regulators, business interests and labor officials said the proposed rules could raise electricity prices and cause job losses without significantly curtail global carbon emissions.

Supporters said the benefits far outweigh the potential costs.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

The Denver meetings are the only ones being held in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality.

Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana's Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, has said at least some of Colstrip's four generating units could continue to operate if the state can achieve emissions reductions in other areas.

Four power plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The Atlanta, Denver and Washington hearings continue Wednesday. The Pittsburgh hearings will be held Thursday and Friday.

-- The Associated Press

Bloomberg: Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 1:12 PM MT

- Comments Email Print

Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping rules proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of climate change will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were

among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said. “Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties,” Kinkaid said.

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

At the hearing at the EPA’s headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation’s largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

“Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way,” Fred Palmer, the company’s top regulatory official, said. “The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington.”

Instead of the EPA’s requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation’s leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means “real and tangible effects for every citizen” by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn’t generated by coal.

“By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants,” testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. “It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation.”

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the Department of Energy will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or renewable energy. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA’s proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas

reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For Georgia, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including Kentucky, West Virginia and North Dakota, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The Natural Resources Defense Council said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

“In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods,” David Doniger, the group’s climate director, testified today.

To contact the reporters on this story: Jennifer Oldham in Denver at joldham1@bloomberg.net; Mark Drajem in Washington at mdrajem@bloomberg.net

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Jon Morgan at jmorgan97@bloomberg.net Steve Geimann

E & E PM edition

EPA: At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

DENVER -- While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners.

Among the first speakers in a scheduled 11-hour session, Jones acknowledged that the trio of U.S. EPA officials tasked with overseeing the day's event could expect to hear the same arguments repeated over and over again.

"I appreciate you doing this, it must be mind-numbing, having sat on that side of the table," joked Jones, whose district includes Longmont, Colo.

Nearly three hours after Jones testified -- and dozens of witnesses, seated two at a time at the hearing table had their five minutes to speak -- he's been proven right, but the hearing is marching on with dozens of individuals expected to say their piece well into the evening.

In an interview outside the hearing, Jones said that despite his quip, he understands the importance of having a variety of individuals testify on the environmental regulation.

"People spend a lot of time getting ready to come in and talk to you. ... You never know when something's going to come up that you hadn't thought up -- that's what you're listening for," said Jones, whose own testimony focused on the impact of climate change on the state's wildfire season.

While many speakers cited statistics, Jones suggested that EPA officials could be equally affected by personal anecdotes. He pointed to the testimony of retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also addressed the panel during its morning session.

Citing his numerous respiratory illnesses, including black lung, Sturgill encouraged EPA to be more stringent in its rulemaking, telling the panel: "The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us."

But this isn't the first time Sturgill, a former federal mine inspector, has offered up his passionate appeal for stricter environmental standards.

In an interview outside the hearing, Sturgill noted his work with multiple groups, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. He said he once spent six months on parole after being arrested inside Rep. Hal Rogers' (R-Ky.) congressional office in an attempt to meet with his congressman.

"I just jumped right into the thick of it to challenge some of those environmental problems," Sturgill said of his decision to become an activist after retiring in 2009.

He appeared at the hearing today with a group of witnesses organized by the Massachusetts-based Civil Society Institute.

In the meantime, EPA officials expressed no concern that the hearing examiners, a mix of staff drawn from Denver, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., would have trouble remaining attentive throughout the day. Teams of three officials presided over each hearing room in four-hour shifts.

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.

Denver Post Blog: EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Posted By Lynn Bartels On July 29, 2014 @ 3:32 pm In 2014 - U.S. Senate election,Energy,Environment,National Politics,White House | No Comments

Coal miners and protesters gather for a rally near the state Capitol against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to cut power-plant carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding the proposal. (Photo by Hyoung Chang/The Denver Post)

With the EPA holding hearings in Denver over its proposed power plant rule, the campaigns for U.S. Senate contenders Mark Udall and Cory Gardner went to work as Coloradans on the left and the right held rallies.

From Gardner, a GOP congressman challenging Udall:

Udall's Energy Policy Hurts Middle Class Coloradans

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a hearing on the Obama Administration's latest regulations impacting coal-fired power plants — rules that Senator Udall embraced as a "good start." Cory Gardner denounced Senator Udall's anti-energy policies that would empower federal regulators, destroy jobs, and drain pocketbooks.

From Udall, a Democrat seeking a second Senate term:

Gardner's Climate Science Denial Puts Colorado At Risk

Congressman Cory Gardner says he's new, but his stubborn denial of climate science is

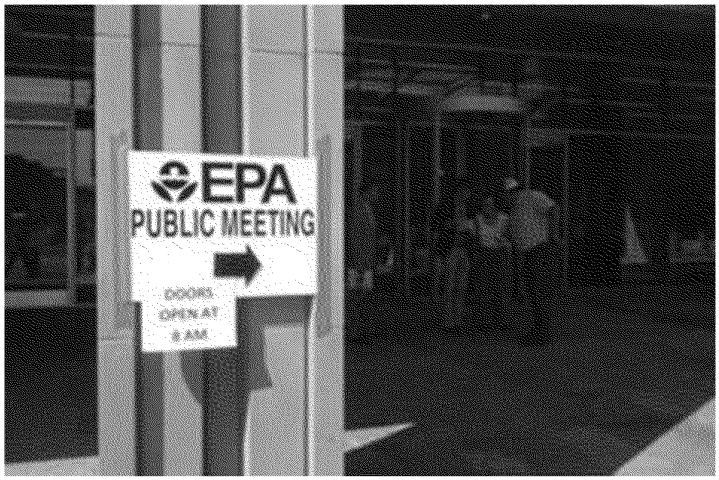
backward and dangerous. As Colorado grapples with the effects of climate change on our water, our communities, mountain snowpack, and our farms and ranches, Gardner's radical refusal to accept the science behind climate change endangers our special way of life.

NextGen Climate sets up a mock power plant with an anti Congressman Cory Gardner message outside the Denver EPA office, where a hearing is being held on a proposed carbon pollution standard. (Photo by RJ Sangosti/The Denver Post)

Colorado boasts one of the nation's most competitive Senate races [1] and one where the battle over energy [2] is key.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a two-day hearing [3] in Denver to consider the impact of proposed federal rules aimed at cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states.

Denver EPA hearing on carbon cuts draws big crowds, strong stands



View Photos

Caitlin Hendee | Denver Business Journal

The Environmental Protection Agency held public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday, where speakers voiced their support or opposition to the agency's plan to require coal plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

Caitlin Hendee

Digital Producer / Social Engagement Manager- *Denver Business Journal*

Email

Tuesday's opening of a two-day Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Denver on regulating carbon dioxide emissions drew warnings of pollution's health impacts from some who testified alongside predictions of job losses and rising energy costs from others.

Hundreds of people gathered in the two hearing rooms and additional video viewing rooms at EPA's Region 8 building at 1595 Wynkoop St. in LoDo for the first of two days of testimony on the rules, which particularly target emissions from coal-fired power plants.

One was retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill. He said people are dying, literally dying, for the EPA to help them, and the agency is not doing enough.

See Also

- Denver hosts EPA hearing on CO2 cuts
- Colorado already cutting CO2 ahead of EPA proposed rules
- What they're saying in Colorado about the EPA's proposed power-plant CO2 rules

"[CO2 pollution] really hurts me. It hurts my children, my grandchildren," Sturgill said, adding that he's developed black lung and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a result of living in a coal mining town.

Also on hand was Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, who said coal "means kids go to school and get an education. It means people can afford a house."

Moffat county is the northwesternmost county in Colorado. Kinkaid, who said Moffat's entire economy is dependent on its coal power plants, called the EPA's plan a "formula for poverty" for himself and the families who live there.

The EPA is holding public hearings in Denver, Atlanta, Washington and Pittsburgh this week so people could voice their opinions about the agency's plan to slash CO2 emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. About 1,600 people are signed up to testify in the four cities.

The plan (details here) is the first time the government has tried to cut carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from existing power plants, considered the "single largest source" of carbon pollution in the nation, according to the EPA.

"This is just a mere lean in the right direction," Sturgill told the panel of three EPA officials.

State Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, said any cost of reducing CO2 emissions is low compared to the costs of climate change.

"We have to be very aggressive with these rules," Jones said. "That's the bottom line."

And while much of the morning testimony reflected such sentiments, some disagreed.

One was Michael Hutchenson, an engineer with Ameren Corp., is a holding company for Missouri utilities servicing over 2.4 million natural gas customers.

Hutchenson testified said the cost of reducing emissions will cost himself and the company he works for dearly by job loss and raised utility prices.

Hutchenson said Ameren already cuts CO2 emissions on its own, and said a 2035 deadline might be a bit more attainable.

Colorado groups on hand for the hearing, such as the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), voiced similar concerns.

“If enacted, EPA’s proposed rules would significantly squeeze the nation’s energy infrastructure, cause substantial reliability concerns and ensure higher electricity prices across the board,” said the CEA in a statement.

Outside of the hearing, environmental groups rallied to show their support of the EPA’s proposed plans.

“I’m in complete support because I’ve witnessed first hand that [climate change] is real and something we need to change,” said former Olympic alpine skier Kaylin Richardson.

Richardson testified Tuesday on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit that advocates against climate change.

Several speakers related numerous examples of the costs of CO2 emissions, which many believe causes climate change. Melting icecaps, hurricanes, rising temperatures, as well as health issues like cancers and lung diseases were some examples recited.

“Climate change is real. We cannot afford the cost of doing nothing,” said Karen Hadden, executive director for Sustainable Energy & Economic Development Coalition, adding that she thinks the EPA should go even further and require that 30 percent of energy must come from renewable sources by 2050.

Testimony will continue all day Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Region 8 building.

Fox 31 Denver: Environmentalists flood EPA hearing on carbon rules in Denver

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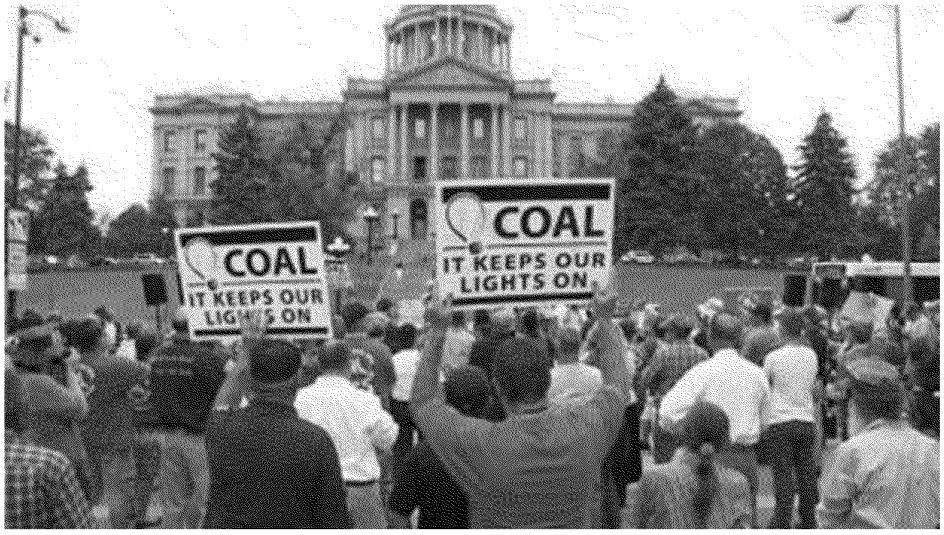


Employees from Colorado's coal industry joined Republicans at a rally protesting the Obama administration's proposed carbon emissions plan. The rally was organized by the group Americans For Prosperity.

DENVER — As two days of hearings on the Obama administration's proposal to curb carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030, environmentalists and industry groups made their cases — in the hearing room and all across town.

While clean energy companies and mothers standing alongside firefighters pushed the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the strongest rule possible to address climate change and improve air quality, Republicans stood with representatives of Colorado's coal industry in the shadows of the state Capitol at a rally organized by Koch-backed Americans For Prosperity and called for the administration to drop a proposal they believe will cost jobs.

Meanwhile, inside a hearing room on the second floor of the gleaming new EPA headquarters at 16th and Wynkoop in Lower Downtown, hundreds of people, each allowed just five minutes, put their feelings on the record.

The heart of the matter: weighing the potential short-term economic costs with the likely long-term costs of inaction.

"It is far cheaper to act strongly now," said state Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, one of the first people to testify in support of the proposal Tuesday morning.

The proposal is an existential threat to the more than 600 coal power plants across the country.

Under the proposed rule, states will be given flexibility about how to achieve the pollution cuts. Instead of immediately shutting down coal plants, states could choose to reduce emissions by installing new wind and solar generation or energy-efficiency technology, and by starting or joining state and regional "cap and trade" programs, in which states agree to cap carbon

pollution and buy and sell permits to pollute.

Looking to combat fears about the economic impact on the industry, the Obama administration Tuesday released a study showing that failing to adequately reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change could cost the United States economy $150 billion a year

While many argued against the rules on the grounds they go too far — Moffat County Commissioner John Kincaid testified that the administration is waging a "war on coal" — others argued that they don't do enough.

"This rule is just a mere lean in the right direction. It's just not going to work for us," said Stanley Sturgell, a retired Kentucky coal miner with black lung disease and COPD who flew himself to Denver to testify. Your targets for reducing pollution by 2030 are way too low and do not do enough to reduce our risk from climate change.

"We're dying — literally dying — for you to help us."

The hearing itself was dominated by environmental advocates pushing the administration to take action.

Meanwhile, the industry made its opposition known at a noon rally in Lincoln Park across from the Capitol.

"Barack Obama these are real Americans and real American jobs," yelled Bob Beauprez, the GOP nominee for governor. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families, off our dignity of work!"

Many in Moffat County, where the Twenty Mile Coal plant is the heart of the local economy, also see the EPA rule as a matter of life and death — for the local economy.

"The coal mines are pretty much our entire economy," said Brandi Meek, a mother of two and the Moffat County GOP chair.

Mary Frontczak, an executive with Peabody Energy Americas, the company that operates the Twenty Mile plant, said that the EPA's plan would make a miniscule difference when it comes to climate change at far too high a cost to her industry and its employees.

"This proposal needs to be withdrawn and there's overwhelming support for that," Frontczak said. "We're going to do something that's not going to have any benefit but will hurt our own people in this country."

Denver EPA hearing fires debate over

costs of cutting carbon — or not

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 05:40:29 PM MDT | Updated: 7 min. ago

The federal proposal to cut coal-fired power plant carbon emissions will impact the nation's economy and witnesses at Denver hearing Tuesday sparred over just what it will mean.

"EPA is trying to shut down the coal industry without regard," said Arch Coal Inc. spokesman Greg Schaefer. The company employs about 1,800 people in Wyoming and about 320 in Western Colorado. an executive with Arch Coal Inc. in Wyoming. "I urge EPA to withdraw the proposal."

But wind and solar industries advocates, as well as representatives of small business and ranching, said there are economic benefits to cutting carbon emissions and replacing fossil fuels.

"A booming wind industry" is creating jobs in Iowa, said Katherine McCormick, Midwest energy policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Iowa has 3,000 wind-related jobs and among the lowest energy costs in the country, which helped lure Google to locate a data center in Council Bluffs, McCormick said.

In Colorado, the wind industry has invested $4.3 billion, said Justin Wilson, executive director of the non-profit Western Clean Energy Campaign,

More than 230 people — from a half dozen states west of the Mississippi River — were slated to testify during Tuesday's 12-hour-long session.

The hearing is the only one of four sessions that is being held west of Pittsburgh. It continues Wednesday.

While witnesses testified one-after-the-other, rallies for and against the proposal were held around town.

The EPA rule aims to cut carbon dioxide emission, a gas linked to climate change, by an average 30 percent over 2012 levels by 2030.

The targets are set state by state. Colorado has a 35 percent goal.

As the result of its efficiency and renewable energy programs and a plan by Xcel Energy to close aging coal plants, the state is in a good position to meet its goal, says a study by Boulder-based Western Resource Advocates.

Some opponents of the rule question whether climate change is real — despite extensive

scientific studies documenting the phenomenon — or how severe its impacts will be.

There was little of that testimony, but much about the economic impact of the proposed rule and climate change.

The risk of extreme weather — like Colorado's 2013 flood or Hurricane Sandy in 2012 — pose a special risk to small businesses, said Tim Gaudette, outreach manager for Small Business Majority, a San Francisco-based business advocacy group.

"Twenty-five percent of small businesses do not reopen after a big event," Gaudette said.

Property damage, loss of employees and revenue often make it difficult to bounce back and most small businesses have only a single location, Gaudette said.

Still, the broader costs to the economy will be expensive said Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association.

The rules would "create a de facto ban on old coal plants," Downing said, citing a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that calculated the annual cost of the rule to the economy at $51 billion.

"Coal is America's most abundant, reliable and cheapest energy source," Downing said.

Other witnesses cited another economic study — "Risky Business" — which estimated that coastal states alone face $35 billion in annual costs due to higher sea levels and storm surges. The study was backed by a bipartisan group that includes former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

"Outdated polices and a failure of government action hold us back," Jenn Vervier, director of strategy and sustainability for Fort Collins-based New Belgium Brewing.

Vervier said that New Belgium has been abel to grow to a staff 562, even as it followed sustainable energy policies.

"Making world-class beer, being honorable and making a profit go hand in hand," Vervier said.

Mark Fix, a Miles City, Montana, rancher, told tales of cleaning fields after tornadoes and rescuing heifers from flood waters.

Any steps to moderate the impacts of climate change are welcome, he said.

"We in agriculture have to deal with weather every day," Fix said. "It can make us or break us."

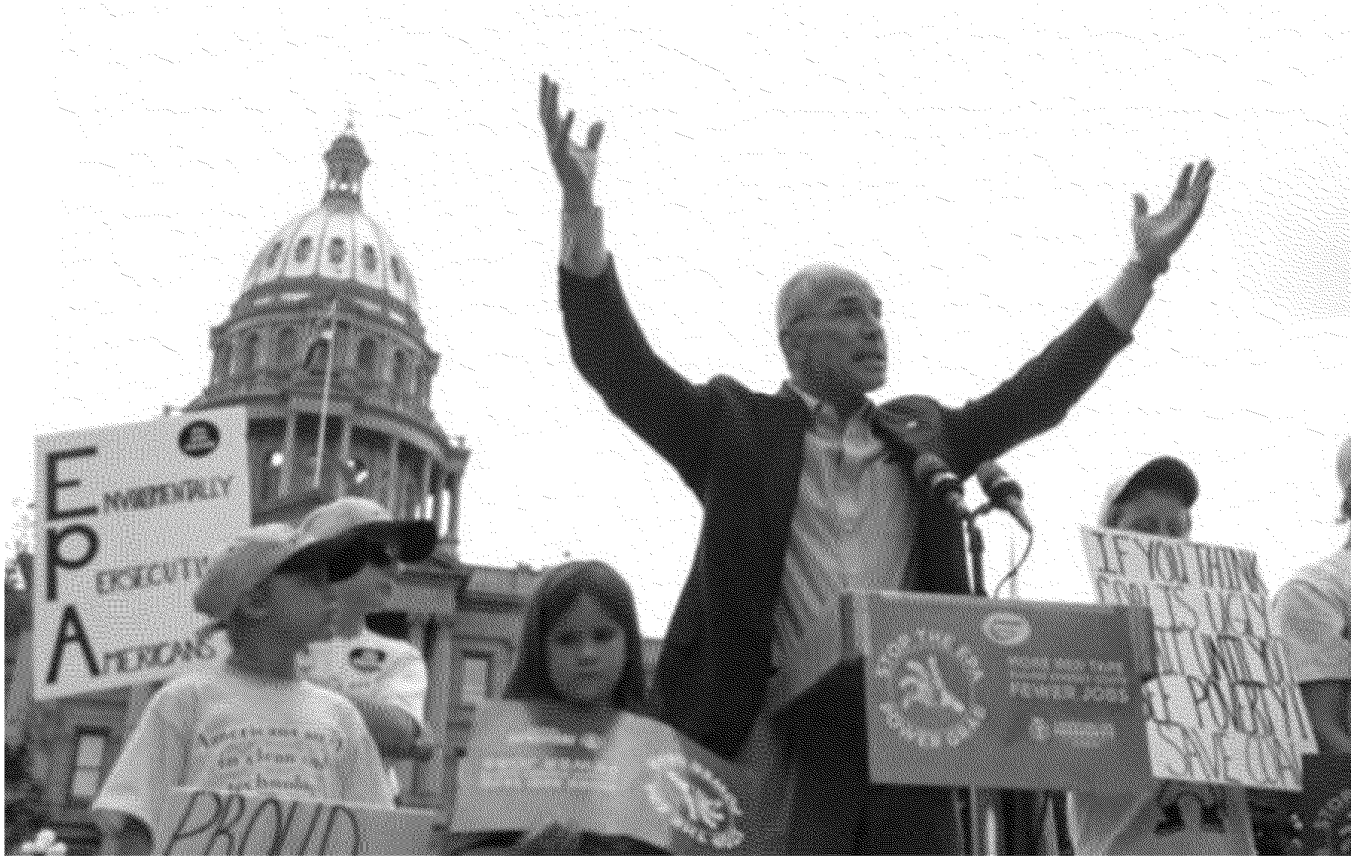
Colorado Independent: Bob Beauprez headlines pro-coal rally

EPA carbon-cutting draw criticism from coal miners, industry and Republican gubernatorial candidate

http://www.coloradoindependent.com/148425/bob-beauprez-headlines-pro-coal-rally

Tessa Cheek

July 29, 2014 Elections 2014 No Comments



DENVER — Republican gubernatorial candidate and former Congressman Bob Beauprez joined a rally of more than 100 coal industry advocates and employees before the state capital today to protest the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cuts to emissions from coal-burning power plants. As those hearings ran in downtown Denver, Beauprez stood with the sign-bearing children of coal miners to say that he was grateful for coal and that the regulations unfairly punish the largely working class families and communities who are sustained by that industry.

"It's jobs, it's real people. This is their livelihood at risk here," Beauprez told *The Colorado Independent.* "These rules would turn a town like Craig, a town like Delta into ghost towns."

The Colorado Mining Association reported that Colorado coal mines employed just over 2,000 people in 2013. But Beauprez emphasized that it's not just those who are directly employed by

the industry who will be impacted by a decrease in coal production and use as a result of the EPA's new rules. He recalled the dwindling of the oil and gas industry in Mesa County and a guitar teacher he met there who was nearly out of business after losing 30 students when their parents, out of work, could no longer afford lessons.

"We've have never used coal cleaner, safer and more efficiently than we do right now," said Beauprez to loud cheers from the crowd.

On the other side of town, where they rallied in favor of the EPA's new rules, conservationists were equally loud in critiquing Beauprez's speech today. Conservation Colorado's Executive Director Pete Maysmith issued a release just as Beauprez took the stage:

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century dirt fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology."

Hearings on the EPA's proposed rules to reduce emissions from coal-burning power plants nationwide, will continue tomorrow in Denver — the only site of such a hearing in the West. Keep an eye out tomorrow for *The Colorado Independent's* multimedia feature on the hearings.

Denver Post: Denver protests over proposed EPA power-plant rules stoked by politics

By Joey Bunch and Thad Moore
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 04:17:53 PM MDT8 Comments | Updated: 61 min. ago

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26238611/denver-protests-over-proposed-epa-power-plant-rules

Coalminers and protesters gather for the rally against the Environmental Protection Agency's rule at Lincoln Park. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding its proposed rule for carbon emissions from existing power plants. (Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

- Jul 29:
- Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little
- Denver EPA hearing fires debate over costs of cutting carbon — or not
- EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Hundreds of people, many of them coal miners and power company employees, rallied near the Colorado Capitol Tuesday against proposed rules to cut power-plant emissions, saying the regulations would kill coal jobs and raise power bills.

"This is about protecting our American way of life and our life in Colorado," Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association, told the fired-up crowd protesting during the two-day EPA hearing in Denver.

Three other hearings on the proposed rules — which would force power plants to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide by 2030 — will be held. The Denver hearing is the only one scheduled for a location west of the Mississippi River.

Opponents to the rules say they will kill jobs and jack up consumers' electricity bills. Supporters say clean air and more jobs will be lost if emissions from coal-fired plants exacerbate climate change and hurts Colorado's winter tourism industry.

At Denver's Commons Park, Moms Clean Air Force and CO Moms Know Best, which favor the regulations, gathered for a "play-in" with children to highlight the state's outdoors and the potential health threats power-plant emissions pose. Children played, painted and picketed nearby.

Regulation supporters came from Santa Fe, N.M., San Francisco, Pueblo, Grand Junction and elsewhere.

Keira Hatton of Pueblo said she has a genetic lung condition that makes her sensitive to pollutants, and on days when she sees smog on the horizon she thinks about going home. She knows the EPA's regulations wouldn't clean the air overnight, but she worries for her daughter

and thinks it's a worthwhile effort.

"Any step in the right direction is the right way," she said.

Jamie Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Knows Best, said about one-third of children's hospitalizations in Colorado are asthma-related. The Sierra Club echoed her concern by inflating a giant inhaler across Wynkoop Street from the EPA's office.

Travis said that while her family, like others, is concerned about paying higher power bills in the short term, it's better than paying higher health care costs.

"The health and well-being of our children now and throughout their lives must be the top priority in setting new carbon emission limits on power plants," said John Friedrich, who works for Climate Parents. "We're here to say with our kids in mind, we can't afford not to."

John Lauer, who was a hotshot firefighter in Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, said he's seen the effects of climate change firsthand: Fires in the West have grown more explosive and spread faster, he said.

The experience led him to support the EPA's proposal, he said at a rally on Millennium Bridge, adding that he thinks the government should support coal workers transition into new work.

"There's a remarkable opportunity for innovation and employment in a new, low-carbon economy," Lauer said. "In the West I can envision two futures: one full of smoke and the other full of innovation."

The hearings created a lot of political hot air. At the rally opposing the regulations, people carried signs that stated "Save America, Impeach Obama,"

"Barack Obama, these are real Americans, and real American jobs," said Republican gubernatorial nominee Bob Beauprez at the Veterans Memorial at the foot of the state Capitol. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families and off our dignity of work."

Beauprez said he supports development of renewable energy, but "if we're really going to be about all-of-the-above, why do we take the biggest part of all-of-the-above right off the table," he said of coal.

Beauprez added, "We have never used coal cleaner, safer, more efficiently than we do right now. That isn't something to punish. It's something to celebrate."

The rally was put on by a coalition of 28 businesses and groups, led by mining associations in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Pete Maysmith, executive director of Conservation Colorado, called the event "a dirty energy rally" and singled out Beauprez.

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century, dirty fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology," he stated, accusing Beauprez of "failed policies and leadership of days long gone past."

Dustin Zvonek, Colorado state director of Americans for Prosperity, said the EPA's rules were about ideology, common sense.

"And in the process is threatening to destroy tens of thousands of jobs and drive up the cost of energy," he said in a statement.

The events were political long before Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner issued a statement Tuesday morning slamming his opponent in Colorado's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Mark Udall, who supported the proposed emissions measures.

"Sen. Udall's out-of-touch record on energy has Coloradans understandably concerned about the economic future of our state," Gardner stated. "Coloradans would suffer under Senator Udall's federal ploy to levy new taxes and crush the working and middle classes with higher electricity prices."

The National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee has been targeting Udall with robocalls in Colorado since early June, saying the measures would jack up electricity bills for consumers. Udall's called the Obama administration's rules "a good start."

His campaign called Gardner a science-denier Tuesday and that his views are "backward and dangerous."

"Like Mark, Coloradans support finding the right balance between energy development and protecting our clean air and water," Udall campaign spokeswoman Kristin Lynch said. "Rather than work to protect our environment and grow our economy, Congressman Gardner would give polluters free rein to contaminate the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Joey Bunch: 303-954-1174, jbunch@denverpost.com or twitter.com/joeybunch

To: Smith, Dylan[Smith.Dylan@epa.gov]; Durley, Kamari[Durley.Kamari@epa.gov]
From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 11:10:01 PM
Subject: Fw: Denver hearing coverage

Here's what was already compiled. Thank you!

Monica Lee
202-564-0645 (o)
202-713-6902 (c)

From: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Johnson, Alisha; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Millett, John; McMichael, Nate; Davis, Alison
Cc: McGrath, Shaun; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Subject: Denver hearing coverage

Hi all- here's a collection of some of the more significant clips related to the Denver hearing today, including several articles from the Denver Post.

Rich

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_26232488/epa-greenhouse-gas-plan-could-up-pressure-colorado

EPA greenhouse-gas plan could up pressure on Colorado power utilities

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

A two-day hearing by the federal Environmental Protection Agency is being held in Denver. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Colorado is further along in cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states — the question is how far along and what would be the impact of proposed federal rules.

Those issues will be at the core of a two-day hearing held by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Denver starting Tuesday.

The proposed EPA rule seeks to cut emissions of carbon dioxide — the largest man-made greenhouse gas by volume — by 30 percent nationwide by 2030.

The EPA is proposing the rules under the Clean Air Act to blunt the gas, which scientific studies show traps extra heat in the atmosphere.

Other power plant pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and mercury, also are regulated under the act. The EPA proposal sets targets for each state based on the local power supply and existing energy policies and calls for each state to develop its own reduction plan. Colorado has a 35 percent target.

"We are not done yet, but all the polices in place make it doable for Colorado," said Stacey Tellinghuisen, an analyst with the Boulder-based environmental policy group Western Resource Advocates.

An analysis by Western Resources Advocates estimates that with just Colorado's existing programs the state's carbon emissions will be cut 28 percent by 2030.

Some industry and utility executives are wary of the proposed rules impacts.

"The EPA is placing state regulators in a difficult position to craft complex plans in a short period of time," said Lee Boughey, a spokesman for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., Colorado's second-largest electricity provider.

The regulations focus on coal-fired power plants, the nation's single largest source of carbon dioxide, contributing nearly 29 percent of the emissions in 2012.

That has drawn the ire of the mining industry.

"These regulations will hurt jobs and the economy," said Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association.

A study done for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy, a trade group, estimated that the West could lose 9,000 mining jobs as the result of the regulations.

Colorado has a renewable energy standard that requires investor-owned utilities — Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy — to get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Rural electric cooperatives, many members of Tri-State, have a 20 percent standard.

The state also requires energy efficiency programs for the investor-owned utilities.

Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest electricity provider, has already added renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Under the 2010 Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act, Xcel agreed to a $1.1 billion program to close six aging coal-fire plants, add pollution controls at two others and build a cleaner-burning gas fired plant for a total of about $1 billion.

The EPA rules, however, use 2012 as the starting point for emission cuts.

"We just want to make sure we get credit for the billions of dollars in investments we've made," said Jack Ilhe, Xcel's director of environmental policy. "We feel strongly that companies and states that have been proactive shouldn't be punished."

In 2010, Xcel generated 60 percent of its energy from coal. By 2020, coal will provide 48 percent of the electricity and renewable sources 29 percent, according to the company

In a press conference call Monday, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said the 2012 starting date was necessary to "implement the Clean Air Act as intended."

The Western Resource Advocates reading of the proposed rule would allow Colorado to count all the renewable energy it has created, most of the Clean Air-Clean Jobs carbon cuts and some energy efficiency savings.

The proposed rule offers four sources of carbon reductions: energy efficiency, improving coal plant efficiency, renewable energy and increased use of natural gas.

"It isn't limited to those four building blocks," McCarthy said. "States have the smarts and skill to pull this off."

Even with the gains in renewable energy and efficiency, in 2012, 65 percent of Colorado's electricity came from coal, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

"Colorado gets to meet its goals, even with all that coal generation, because in truth the bar in the rule is set very low," said Leslie Glustrom, research director for Boulder-based Clean Energy Action.

"But if you are trying to lose weight or quit smoking, you don't go cold turkey, you do it in steps," Glustrom said.

E&E : CLIMATE:

Green hoopla dominates start of EPA hearings on power plant rule

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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Hundreds of supporters of the Obama administration's flagship climate change rule turned the grounds around the U.S. EPA headquarters into a green carnival this morning as the agency opened the first public hearings on the proposal in Washington, D.C.

Stoking enthusiasm outside the William Jefferson Clinton Building was Ben & Jerry's, which handed out free cookie dough and fudge ice cream to rule backers -- notably children organized by the Moms Clean Air Task Force. The group is also staging "play-ins" at the other three EPA listening sessions this week in Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh.

Eight-year-old Logan Sheehan interrupted his pre-rally parachute play to say this wasn't his first go at civic engagement. He had already met Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) at a similar event last month at the Capitol, he said.

Asked what he remembered about that event, the rising third-grader answered, "Not much." He'll join his mom, Trisha Sheehan of Winona, N.J., who's scheduled to testify in the Clinton building later today.

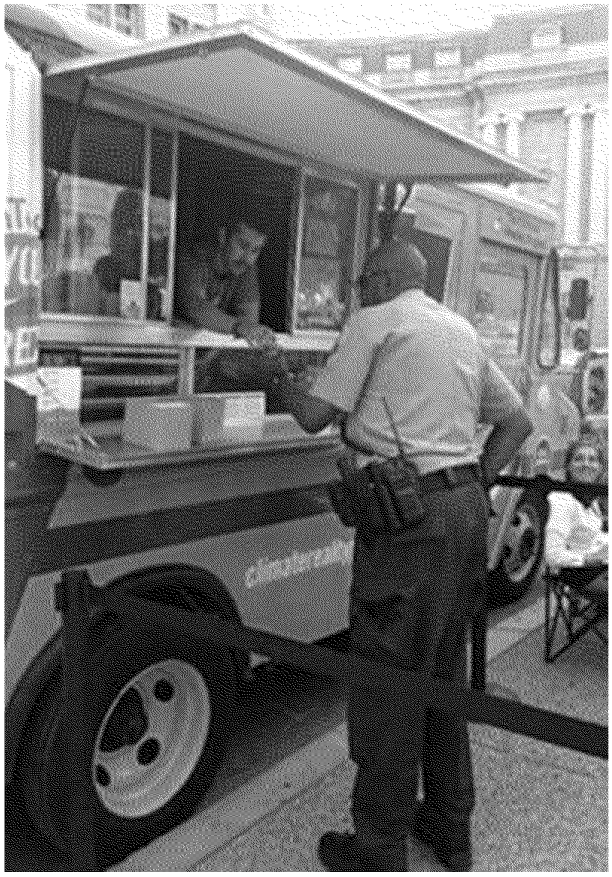
Sheehan said she first became engaged in environmental issues after last September's Paulsboro, N.J., train derailment, which released toxic fumes into her town's air.

"Something bigger than me needs to be done to protect my children's future from dirty air," she said. "So that's what really spurred me into activism."

The outdoor rally coordinated by major environmental groups -- including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund and Environment America -- featured whirligigs, bongo drums and speeches.

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), fresh from his testimony in support of the rule, told the crowd that U.S. engagement on the issue is important, even before other countries take similar steps.

"We can't preach temperance from a bar stool," he said. "We have to be the leaders if we want China and India to follow."



A Climate Reality Project truck handed out scoops of Ben & Jerry's ice cream outside of U.S. EPA's Washington, D.C., headquarters this morning. Photo by Robin Bravender.

The coal industry's lone outdoor ad was an electronic billboard parked on Constitution Avenue in front of the Clinton building. The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity offering faced off against another video billboard sponsored by the Climate Action Campaign, which helped coordinate messaging for

national environmental groups.

At the hearing, EPA staffers sat at a table listening as commenters came forward two by two to give testimony on the June 2 proposal, which could lead to a substantial restructuring of the electric power system as it seeks to reduce the sector's emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The lineup of speakers included several politicians. Markey was joined by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) in morning testimony, while Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) testified against the rule in a separate room.

Capito said in her prepared testimony that the rule would be disastrous for her state's coal-based economy.

"With this unprecedented rule, the EPA has gone far beyond requiring existing coal plants operate as efficiently as possible," she said. "Instead, the very framework for this rule is built around shifting the country away from coal. The federal government has no business picking winners and losers in the energy economy, but that's exactly what the EPA's new rule would do."

Priority for greens

The hearings, which will continue in Washington, Denver and Atlanta tomorrow and Pittsburgh on Thursday, are aimed at providing EPA with feedback on its proposal. The agency's acting air chief Janet McCabe stood in the back of the hearing room through part of the morning's testimony.

National environmentalists have made protecting the rule from congressional and industry attacks a top priority. Their leaders expressed optimism this morning that they would succeed.

Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's newly minted president and CEO, said the environmental community would continue to present the rule as workable. O'Mara, who previously worked as chief of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, said his time there proved to him that regional programs like the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative can succeed and can be cost-effective.

Advocates of EPA's climate rule held up signs of support outside the agency while friends and foes of the draft regulation squared off inside. Photo by Robin Bravender.

"Using that as a counter-example to some of the talking points on the other side" should be effective, he said. NWF's plan will be to work with "more moderate" lawmakers of both parties to avoid a fight over the rule, he added.

"I am absolutely committed to being much more focused on protecting wildlife and connecting more folks in their communities," said O'Mara, who just oversaw a staffing shakeup at NWF (*see related story*). That local focus is in part due to the gridlock in Washington, he said.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the rule has more supporters than its opponents believe, in part because of the method EPA followed in writing it.

"I think there's great appreciation around the country including from some public business for the fact that Gina McCarthy went out and listened to the concerns of people in the business community and incorporated a lot of the flexibility they were looking for in the rule," said Krupp, who has worked with business interests on similar issues in the past, including to enact cap and trade.

Krupp said that although the power plant rule is important, it is not the only action EPA can take to protect the climate. His group has worked extensively to improve data on methane released during natural gas development and has urged the agency to consider rules for those heat-trapping emissions.

"We could get roughly the same benefit in 2025 from a good rule closing methane leaks as we could get from the power plant rule," he said.

The White House set up this week's listening sessions by releasing a report this morning warning of the economic costs of delaying action to address climate change (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

Denver hearing

At EPA's Region 8 headquarters in Denver, testimony also skewed in favor in the regulations among the first few witnesses to speak during an expected 11 hours of statements.

Retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also advocates for mine safety, praised EPA for proposing new regulations but called on the agency to offer a more stringent version of its plan.

"The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front-line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us," Sturgill said.

His remarks drew a show of silent applause -- in which individuals raise their hands and wiggle their fingers -- from a half-dozen adults and children in the audience dressed in turquoise T-shirts with the statement "I [heart] Clean Air."

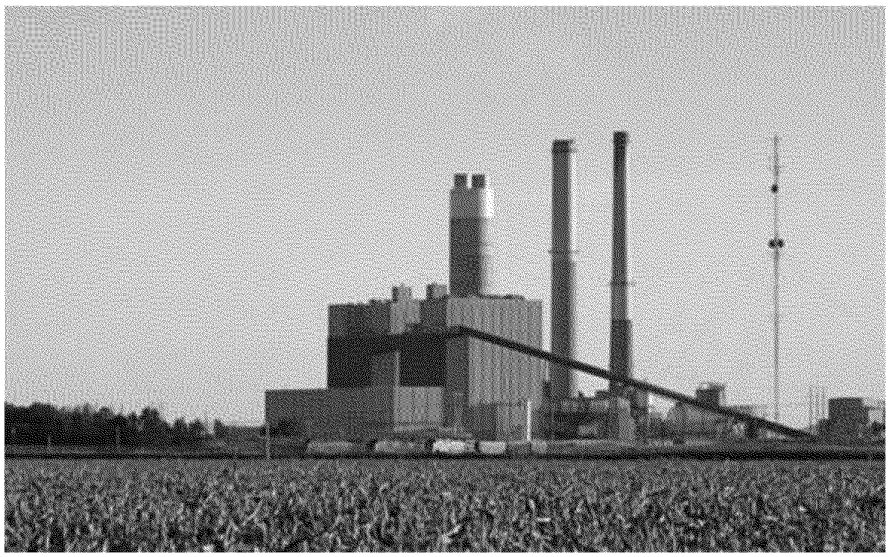
Those objecting to the proposed rules framed new regulations as an economic disaster in waiting.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity both for Moffat County and for the nation. ... Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid said in the first remarks of the session. "This isn't some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of northwest Colorado, to us this is personal."

During the first hour of the hearing, testimony in one of two rooms set up for the session was periodically slowed by technical difficulties as microphones provided to witnesses failed to work, and at one point sound from another room was apparently piped into the hearing room.

Reporter Jennifer Yachnin in Denver contributed.

AP: New EPA rules for power plant pollution draw criticism



The Ameren Corp. coal-fired power plant, seen here in 2013, sits outside the southern Illinois town of Newton. *(The Associated Press)*

Print

By The Associated Press
Follow on Twitter
on July 29, 2014 at 11:16 AM, updated July 29, 2014 at 11:20 AM

DENVER — Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with

2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

More information

Guidelines to submit written comments to the EPA: http://tinyurl.com/qetmzaj

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies, religious and civil rights organizations and others sent representatives to the hearings.

John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA in Denver the rules would devastate the economy in his area, home to a major power plant.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," he said. "Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan."

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and the public's. He suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases, Sturgill said.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

In Atlanta, elected regulators, business interests and labor officials said the proposed rules could raise electricity prices and cause job losses without significantly curtail global carbon emissions.

Supporters said the benefits far outweigh the potential costs.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

The Denver meetings are the only ones being held in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality.

Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana's Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, has said at least some of Colstrip's four generating units could continue to operate if the state can achieve emissions reductions in other areas.

Four power plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The Atlanta, Denver and Washington hearings continue Wednesday. The Pittsburgh hearings will be held Thursday and Friday.

-- The Associated Press

Bloomberg: Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 1:12 PM MT

- Comments Email Print

Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping rules proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of climate change will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were

among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said. “Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties,” Kinkaid said.

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

At the hearing at the EPA’s headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation’s largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

“Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way,” Fred Palmer, the company’s top regulatory official, said. “The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington.”

Instead of the EPA’s requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation’s leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means “real and tangible effects for every citizen” by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn’t generated by coal.

“By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants,” testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. “It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation.”

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the Department of Energy will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or renewable energy. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA’s proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas

reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For Georgia, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including Kentucky, West Virginia and North Dakota, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The Natural Resources Defense Council said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

“In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods,” David Doniger, the group’s climate director, testified today.

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E & E PM edition

EPA: At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

DENVER -- While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners.

Among the first speakers in a scheduled 11-hour session, Jones acknowledged that the trio of U.S. EPA officials tasked with overseeing the day's event could expect to hear the same arguments repeated over and over again.

"I appreciate you doing this, it must be mind-numbing, having sat on that side of the table," joked Jones, whose district includes Longmont, Colo.

Nearly three hours after Jones testified -- and dozens of witnesses, seated two at a time at the hearing table had their five minutes to speak -- he's been proven right, but the hearing is marching on with dozens of individuals expected to say their piece well into the evening.

In an interview outside the hearing, Jones said that despite his quip, he understands the importance of having a variety of individuals testify on the environmental regulation.

"People spend a lot of time getting ready to come in and talk to you. ... You never know when something's going to come up that you hadn't thought up -- that's what you're listening for," said Jones, whose own testimony focused on the impact of climate change on the state's wildfire season.

While many speakers cited statistics, Jones suggested that EPA officials could be equally affected by personal anecdotes. He pointed to the testimony of retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also addressed the panel during its morning session.

Citing his numerous respiratory illnesses, including black lung, Sturgill encouraged EPA to be more stringent in its rulemaking, telling the panel: "The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us."

But this isn't the first time Sturgill, a former federal mine inspector, has offered up his passionate appeal for stricter environmental standards.

In an interview outside the hearing, Sturgill noted his work with multiple groups, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. He said he once spent six months on parole after being arrested inside Rep. Hal Rogers' (R-Ky.) congressional office in an attempt to meet with his congressman.

"I just jumped right into the thick of it to challenge some of those environmental problems," Sturgill said of his decision to become an activist after retiring in 2009.

He appeared at the hearing today with a group of witnesses organized by the Massachusetts-based Civil Society Institute.

In the meantime, EPA officials expressed no concern that the hearing examiners, a mix of staff drawn from Denver, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., would have trouble remaining attentive throughout the day. Teams of three officials presided over each hearing room in four-hour shifts.

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.

Denver Post Blog: EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Posted By Lynn Bartels On July 29, 2014 @ 3:32 pm In 2014 - U.S. Senate election,Energy,Environment,National Politics,White House | No Comments

Coal miners and protesters gather for a rally near the state Capitol against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to cut power-plant carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding the proposal. (Photo by Hyoung Chang/The Denver Post)

With the EPA holding hearings in Denver over its proposed power plant rule, the campaigns for U.S. Senate contenders Mark Udall and Cory Gardner went to work as Coloradans on the left and the right held rallies.

From Gardner, a GOP congressman challenging Udall:

Udall's Energy Policy Hurts Middle Class Coloradans

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a hearing on the Obama Administration's latest regulations impacting coal-fired power plants — rules that Senator Udall embraced as a "good start." Cory Gardner denounced Senator Udall's anti-energy policies that would empower federal regulators, destroy jobs, and drain pocketbooks.

From Udall, a Democrat seeking a second Senate term:

Gardner's Climate Science Denial Puts Colorado At Risk

Congressman Cory Gardner says he's new, but his stubborn denial of climate science is

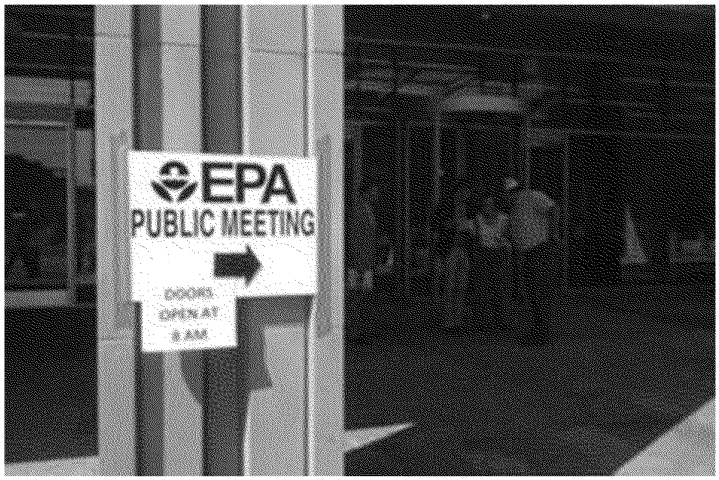
backward and dangerous. As Colorado grapples with the effects of climate change on our water, our communities, mountain snowpack, and our farms and ranches, Gardner's radical refusal to accept the science behind climate change endangers our special way of life.

NextGen Climate sets up a mock power plant with an anti Congressman Cory Gardner message outside the Denver EPA office, where a hearing is being held on a proposed carbon pollution standard. (Photo by RJ Sangosti/The Denver Post)

Colorado boasts one of the nation's most competitive Senate races [1] and one where the battle over energy [2] is key.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a two-day hearing [3] in Denver to consider the impact of proposed federal rules aimed at cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states.

Denver EPA hearing on carbon cuts draws big crowds, strong stands



View Photos

Caitlin Hendee | Denver Business Journal

The Environmental Protection Agency held public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday, where speakers voiced their support or opposition to the agency's plan to require coal plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

Caitlin Hendee

Digital Producer / Social Engagement Manager- *Denver Business Journal*

Email

Tuesday's opening of a two-day Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Denver on regulating carbon dioxide emissions drew warnings of pollution's health impacts from some who testified alongside predictions of job losses and rising energy costs from others.

Hundreds of people gathered in the two hearing rooms and additional video viewing rooms at EPA's Region 8 building at 1595 Wynkoop St. in LoDo for the first of two days of testimony on the rules, which particularly target emissions from coal-fired power plants.

One was retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill. He said people are dying, literally dying, for the EPA to help them, and the agency is not doing enough.

See Also

- Denver hosts EPA hearing on CO2 cuts
- Colorado already cutting CO2 ahead of EPA proposed rules
- What they're saying in Colorado about the EPA's proposed power-plant CO2 rules

"[CO2 pollution] really hurts me. It hurts my children, my grandchildren," Sturgill said, adding that he's developed black lung and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a result of living in a coal mining town.

Also on hand was Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, who said coal "means kids go to school and get an education. It means people can afford a house."

Moffat county is the northwesternmost county in Colorado. Kinkaid, who said Moffat's entire economy is dependent on its coal power plants, called the EPA's plan a "formula for poverty" for himself and the families who live there.

The EPA is holding public hearings in Denver, Atlanta, Washington and Pittsburgh this week so people could voice their opinions about the agency's plan to slash CO2 emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. About 1,600 people are signed up to testify in the four cities.

The plan (details here) is the first time the government has tried to cut carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from existing power plants, considered the "single largest source" of carbon pollution in the nation, according to the EPA.

"This is just a mere lean in the right direction," Sturgill told the panel of three EPA officials.

State Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, said any cost of reducing CO2 emissions is low compared to the costs of climate change.

"We have to be very aggressive with these rules," Jones said. "That's the bottom line."

And while much of the morning testimony reflected such sentiments, some disagreed.

One was Michael Hutchenson, an engineer with Ameren Corp., is a holding company for Missouri utilities servicing over 2.4 million natural gas customers.

Hutchenson testified said the cost of reducing emissions will cost himself and the company he works for dearly by job loss and raised utility prices.

Hutchenson said Ameren already cuts CO2 emissions on its own, and said a 2035 deadline might be a bit more attainable.

Colorado groups on hand for the hearing, such as the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), voiced similar concerns.

“If enacted, EPA’s proposed rules would significantly squeeze the nation’s energy infrastructure, cause substantial reliability concerns and ensure higher electricity prices across the board,” said the CEA in a statement.

Outside of the hearing, environmental groups rallied to show their support of the EPA’s proposed plans.

“I’m in complete support because I’ve witnessed first hand that [climate change] is real and something we need to change,” said former Olympic alpine skier Kaylin Richardson.

Richardson testified Tuesday on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit that advocates against climate change.

Several speakers related numerous examples of the costs of CO2 emissions, which many believe causes climate change. Melting icecaps, hurricanes, rising temperatures, as well as health issues like cancers and lung diseases were some examples recited.

“Climate change is real. We cannot afford the cost of doing nothing,” said Karen Hadden, executive director for Sustainable Energy & Economic Development Coalition, adding that she thinks the EPA should go even further and require that 30 percent of energy must come from renewable sources by 2050.

Testimony will continue all day Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Region 8 building.

Fox 31 Denver: Environmentalists flood EPA hearing on carbon rules in Denver

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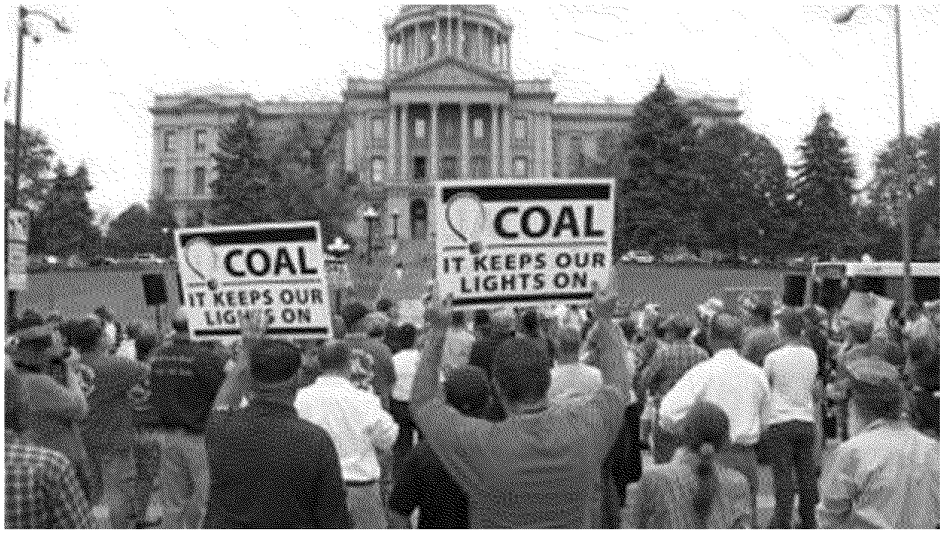


Employees from Colorado's coal industry joined Republicans at a rally protesting the Obama administration's proposed carbon emissions plan. The rally was organized by the group Americans For Prosperity.

DENVER — As two days of hearings on the Obama administration's proposal to curb carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030, environmentalists and industry groups made their cases — in the hearing room and all across town.

While clean energy companies and mothers standing alongside firefighters pushed the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the strongest rule possible to address climate change and improve air quality, Republicans stood with representatives of Colorado's coal industry in the shadows of the state Capitol at a rally organized by Koch-backed Americans For Prosperity and called for the administration to drop a proposal they believe will cost jobs.

Meanwhile, inside a hearing room on the second floor of the gleaming new EPA headquarters at 16th and Wynkoop in Lower Downtown, hundreds of people, each allowed just five minutes, put their feelings on the record.

The heart of the matter: weighing the potential short-term economic costs with the likely long-term costs of inaction.

"It is far cheaper to act strongly now," said state Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, one of the first people to testify in support of the proposal Tuesday morning.

The proposal is an existential threat to the more than 600 coal power plants across the country.

Under the proposed rule, states will be given flexibility about how to achieve the pollution cuts. Instead of immediately shutting down coal plants, states could choose to reduce emissions by installing new wind and solar generation or energy-efficiency technology, and by starting or joining state and regional "cap and trade" programs, in which states agree to cap carbon

pollution and buy and sell permits to pollute.

Looking to combat fears about the economic impact on the industry, the Obama administration Tuesday released a study showing that failing to adequately reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change could cost the United States economy $150 billion a year

While many argued against the rules on the grounds they go too far — Moffat County Commissioner John Kincaid testified that the administration is waging a "war on coal" — others argued that they don't do enough.

"This rule is just a mere lean in the right direction. It's just not going to work for us," said Stanley Sturgell, a retired Kentucky coal miner with black lung disease and COPD who flew himself to Denver to testify. Your targets for reducing pollution by 2030 are way too low and do not do enough to reduce our risk from climate change.

"We're dying — literally dying — for you to help us."

The hearing itself was dominated by environmental advocates pushing the administration to take action.

Meanwhile, the industry made its opposition known at a noon rally in Lincoln Park across from the Capitol.

"Barack Obama these are real Americans and real American jobs," yelled Bob Beauprez, the GOP nominee for governor. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families, off our dignity of work!"

Many in Moffat County, where the Twenty Mile Coal plant is the heart of the local economy, also see the EPA rule as a matter of life and death — for the local economy.

"The coal mines are pretty much our entire economy," said Brandi Meek, a mother of two and the Moffat County GOP chair.

Mary Frontczak, an executive with Peabody Energy Americas, the company that operates the Twenty Mile plant, said that the EPA's plan would make a miniscule difference when it comes to climate change at far too high a cost to her industry and its employees.

"This proposal needs to be withdrawn and there's overwhelming support for that," Frontczak said. "We're going to do something that's not going to have any benefit but will hurt our own people in this country."

Denver EPA hearing fires debate over

costs of cutting carbon — or not

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 05:40:29 PM MDT | Updated: 7 min. ago

The federal proposal to cut coal-fired power plant carbon emissions will impact the nation's economy and witnesses at Denver hearing Tuesday sparred over just what it will mean.

"EPA is trying to shut down the coal industry without regard," said Arch Coal Inc. spokesman Greg Schaefer. The company employs about 1,800 people in Wyoming and about 320 in Western Colorado. an executive with Arch Coal Inc. in Wyoming. "I urge EPA to withdraw the proposal."

But wind and solar industries advocates, as well as representatives of small business and ranching, said there are economic benefits to cutting carbon emissions and replacing fossil fuels.

"A booming wind industry" is creating jobs in Iowa, said Katherine McCormick, Midwest energy policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Iowa has 3,000 wind-related jobs and among the lowest energy costs in the country, which helped lure Google to locate a data center in Council Bluffs, McCormick said.

In Colorado, the wind industry has invested $4.3 billion, said Justin Wilson, executive director of the non-profit Western Clean Energy Campaign,

More than 230 people — from a half dozen states west of the Mississippi River — were slated to testify during Tuesday's 12-hour-long session.

The hearing is the only one of four sessions that is being held west of Pittsburgh. It continues Wednesday.

While witnesses testified one-after-the-other, rallies for and against the proposal were held around town.

The EPA rule aims to cut carbon dioxide emission, a gas linked to climate change, by an average 30 percent over 2012 levels by 2030.

The targets are set state by state. Colorado has a 35 percent goal.

As the result of its efficiency and renewable energy programs and a plan by Xcel Energy to close aging coal plants, the state is in a good position to meet its goal, says a study by Boulder-based Western Resource Advocates.

Some opponents of the rule question whether climate change is real — despite extensive

scientific studies documenting the phenomenon — or how severe its impacts will be.

There was little of that testimony, but much about the economic impact of the proposed rule and climate change.

The risk of extreme weather — like Colorado's 2013 flood or Hurricane Sandy in 2012 — pose a special risk to small businesses, said Tim Gaudette, outreach manager for Small Business Majority, a San Francisco-based business advocacy group.

"Twenty-five percent of small businesses do not reopen after a big event," Gaudette said.

Property damage, loss of employees and revenue often make it difficult to bounce back and most small businesses have only a single location, Gaudette said.

Still, the broader costs to the economy will be expensive said Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association.

The rules would "create a de facto ban on old coal plants," Downing said, citing a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that calculated the annual cost of the rule to the economy at $51 billion.

"Coal is America's most abundant, reliable and cheapest energy source," Downing said.

Other witnesses cited another economic study — "Risky Business" — which estimated that coastal states alone face $35 billion in annual costs due to higher sea levels and storm surges. The study was backed by a bipartisan group that includes former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

"Outdated polices and a failure of government action hold us back," Jenn Vervier, director of strategy and sustainability for Fort Collins-based New Belgium Brewing.

Vervier said that New Belgium has been abel to grow to a staff 562, even as it followed sustainable energy policies.

"Making world-class beer, being honorable and making a profit go hand in hand," Vervier said.

Mark Fix, a Miles City, Montana, rancher, told tales of cleaning fields after tornadoes and rescuing heifers from flood waters.

Any steps to moderate the impacts of climate change are welcome, he said.

"We in agriculture have to deal with weather every day," Fix said. "It can make us or break us."

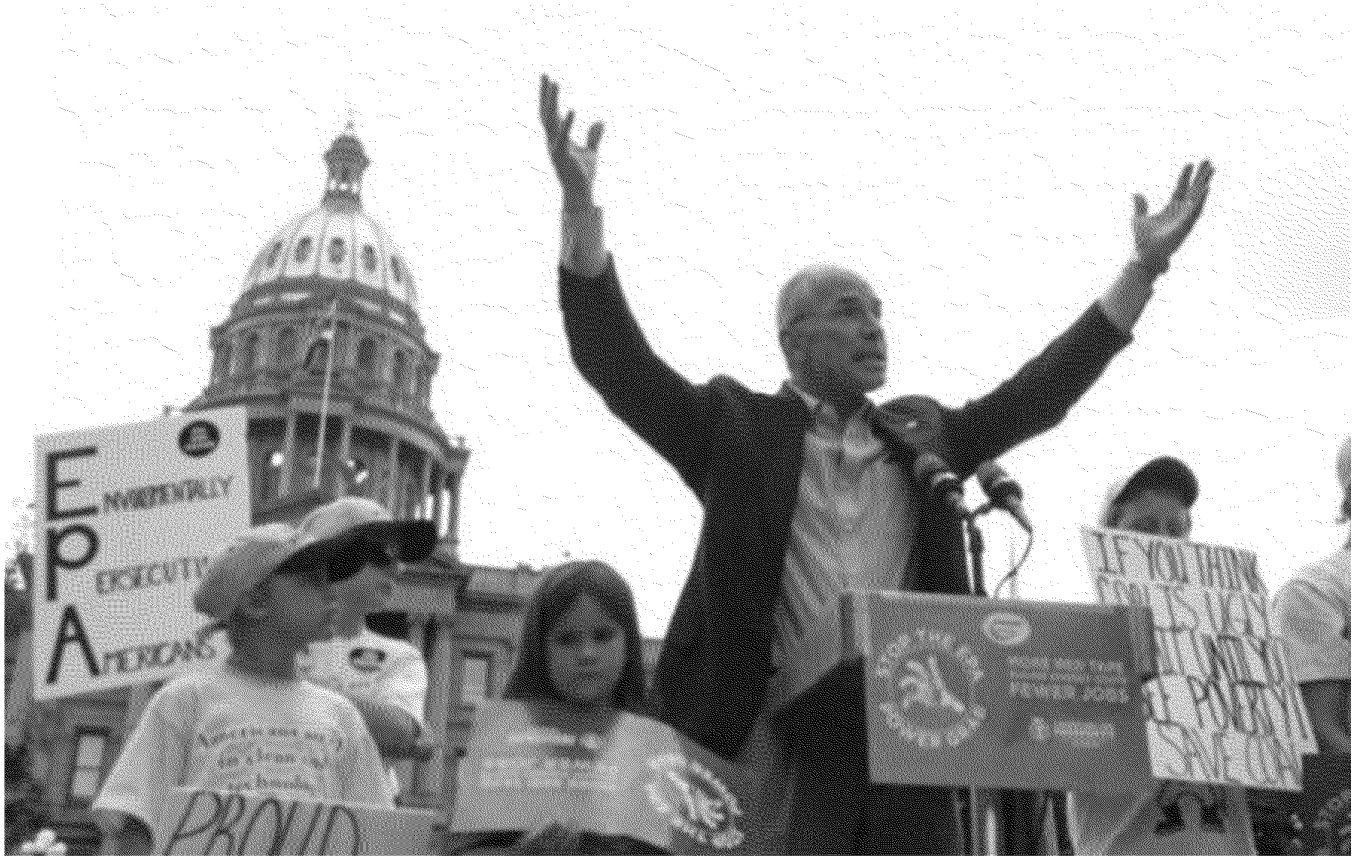
Colorado Independent: Bob Beauprez headlines pro-coal rally

EPA carbon-cutting draw criticism from coal miners, industry and Republican gubernatorial candidate

http://www.coloradoindependent.com/148425/bob-beauprez-headlines-pro-coal-rally

Tessa Cheek

July 29, 2014 Elections 2014 No Comments



DENVER — Republican gubernatorial candidate and former Congressman Bob Beauprez joined a rally of more than 100 coal industry advocates and employees before the state capital today to protest the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cuts to emissions from coal-burning power plants. As those hearings ran in downtown Denver, Beauprez stood with the sign-bearing children of coal miners to say that he was grateful for coal and that the regulations unfairly punish the largely working class families and communities who are sustained by that industry.

"It's jobs, it's real people. This is their livelihood at risk here," Beauprez told *The Colorado Independent.* "These rules would turn a town like Craig, a town like Delta into ghost towns."

The Colorado Mining Association reported that Colorado coal mines employed just over 2,000 people in 2013. But Beauprez emphasized that it's not just those who are directly employed by

the industry who will be impacted by a decrease in coal production and use as a result of the EPA's new rules. He recalled the dwindling of the oil and gas industry in Mesa County and a guitar teacher he met there who was nearly out of business after losing 30 students when their parents, out of work, could no longer afford lessons.

"We've have never used coal cleaner, safer and more efficiently than we do right now," said Beauprez to loud cheers from the crowd.

On the other side of town, where they rallied in favor of the EPA's new rules, conservationists were equally loud in critiquing Beauprez's speech today. Conservation Colorado's Executive Director Pete Maysmith issued a release just as Beauprez took the stage:

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century dirt fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology."

Hearings on the EPA's proposed rules to reduce emissions from coal-burning power plants nationwide, will continue tomorrow in Denver — the only site of such a hearing in the West. Keep an eye out tomorrow for *The Colorado Independent's* multimedia feature on the hearings.

Denver Post: Denver protests over proposed EPA power-plant rules stoked by politics

By Joey Bunch and Thad Moore
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 04:17:53 PM MDT8 Comments | Updated: 61 min. ago

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26238611/denver-protests-over-proposed-epa-power-plant-rules

Coalminers and protesters gather for the rally against the Environmental Protection Agency's rule at Lincoln Park. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding its proposed rule for carbon emissions from existing power plants. (Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

- Jul 29:
- Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little
- Denver EPA hearing fires debate over costs of cutting carbon — or not
- EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Hundreds of people, many of them coal miners and power company employees, rallied near the Colorado Capitol Tuesday against proposed rules to cut power-plant emissions, saying the regulations would kill coal jobs and raise power bills.

"This is about protecting our American way of life and our life in Colorado," Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association, told the fired-up crowd protesting during the two-day EPA hearing in Denver.

Three other hearings on the proposed rules — which would force power plants to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide by 2030 — will be held. The Denver hearing is the only one scheduled for a location west of the Mississippi River.

Opponents to the rules say they will kill jobs and jack up consumers' electricity bills. Supporters say clean air and more jobs will be lost if emissions from coal-fired plants exacerbate climate change and hurts Colorado's winter tourism industry.

At Denver's Commons Park, Moms Clean Air Force and CO Moms Know Best, which favor the regulations, gathered for a "play-in" with children to highlight the state's outdoors and the potential health threats power-plant emissions pose. Children played, painted and picketed nearby.

Regulation supporters came from Santa Fe, N.M., San Francisco, Pueblo, Grand Junction and elsewhere.

Keira Hatton of Pueblo said she has a genetic lung condition that makes her sensitive to pollutants, and on days when she sees smog on the horizon she thinks about going home. She knows the EPA's regulations wouldn't clean the air overnight, but she worries for her daughter

and thinks it's a worthwhile effort.

"Any step in the right direction is the right way," she said.

Jamie Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Knows Best, said about one-third of children's hospitalizations in Colorado are asthma-related. The Sierra Club echoed her concern by inflating a giant inhaler across Wynkoop Street from the EPA's office.

Travis said that while her family, like others, is concerned about paying higher power bills in the short term, it's better than paying higher health care costs.

"The health and well-being of our children now and throughout their lives must be the top priority in setting new carbon emission limits on power plants," said John Friedrich, who works for Climate Parents. "We're here to say with our kids in mind, we can't afford not to."

John Lauer, who was a hotshot firefighter in Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, said he's seen the effects of climate change firsthand: Fires in the West have grown more explosive and spread faster, he said.

The experience led him to support the EPA's proposal, he said at a rally on Millennium Bridge, adding that he thinks the government should support coal workers transition into new work.

"There's a remarkable opportunity for innovation and employment in a new, low-carbon economy," Lauer said. "In the West I can envision two futures: one full of smoke and the other full of innovation."

The hearings created a lot of political hot air. At the rally opposing the regulations, people carried signs that stated "Save America, Impeach Obama,"

"Barack Obama, these are real Americans, and real American jobs," said Republican gubernatorial nominee Bob Beauprez at the Veterans Memorial at the foot of the state Capitol. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families and off our dignity of work."

Beauprez said he supports development of renewable energy, but "if we're really going to be about all-of-the-above, why do we take the biggest part of all-of-the-above right off the table," he said of coal.

Beauprez added, "We have never used coal cleaner, safer, more efficiently than we do right now. That isn't something to punish. It's something to celebrate."

The rally was put on by a coalition of 28 businesses and groups, led by mining associations in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Pete Maysmith, executive director of Conservation Colorado, called the event "a dirty energy rally" and singled out Beauprez.

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century, dirty fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology," he stated, accusing Beauprez of "failed policies and leadership of days long gone past."

Dustin Zvonek, Colorado state director of Americans for Prosperity, said the EPA's rules were about ideology, common sense.

"And in the process is threatening to destroy tens of thousands of jobs and drive up the cost of energy," he said in a statement.

The events were political long before Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner issued a statement Tuesday morning slamming his opponent in Colorado's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Mark Udall, who supported the proposed emissions measures.

"Sen. Udall's out-of-touch record on energy has Coloradans understandably concerned about the economic future of our state," Gardner stated. "Coloradans would suffer under Senator Udall's federal ploy to levy new taxes and crush the working and middle classes with higher electricity prices."

The National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee has been targeting Udall with robocalls in Colorado since early June, saying the measures would jack up electricity bills for consumers. Udall's called the Obama administration's rules "a good start."

His campaign called Gardner a science-denier Tuesday and that his views are "backward and dangerous."

"Like Mark, Coloradans support finding the right balance between energy development and protecting our clean air and water," Udall campaign spokeswoman Kristin Lynch said. "Rather than work to protect our environment and grow our economy, Congressman Gardner would give polluters free rein to contaminate the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Joey Bunch: 303-954-1174, jbunch@denverpost.com or twitter.com/joeybunch

To: McMichael, Nate[McMichael.Nate@epa.gov]
From: Stewart, Lori
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 2:26:20 AM
Subject: Re: Denver hearing coverage

Thanks Nate

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2014, at 10:01 PM, "McMichael, Nate" <McMichael.Nate@epa.gov> wrote:

Fyi- news from Denver.

Nate McMichael
USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
202 564 0382 (o)
202 236 4176 (c)

From: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Johnson, Alisha; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Millett, John; McMichael, Nate; Davis, Alison
Cc: McGrath, Shaun; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Subject: Denver hearing coverage

Hi all- here's a collection of some of the more significant clips related to the Denver hearing today, including several articles from the Denver Post.

EPA greenhouse-gas plan could up pressure on Colorado power utilities

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

<image001.jpg>

A two-day hearing by the federal Environmental Protection Agency is being held in Denver. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Colorado is further along in cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states — the question is how far along and what would be the impact of proposed federal rules.

Those issues will be at the core of a two-day hearing held by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Denver starting Tuesday.

The proposed EPA rule seeks to cut emissions of carbon dioxide — the largest man-made greenhouse gas by volume — by 30 percent nationwide by 2030.

The EPA is proposing the rules under the Clean Air Act to blunt the gas, which scientific studies show traps extra heat in the atmosphere.

Other power plant pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and mercury, also are regulated under the act. The EPA proposal sets targets for each state based on the local power supply and existing energy policies and calls for each state to develop its own reduction plan. Colorado has a 35 percent target.

"We are not done yet, but all the polices in place make it doable for Colorado," said Stacey Tellinghuisen, an analyst with the Boulder-based environmental policy group Western Resource Advocates.

An analysis by Western Resources Advocates estimates that with just Colorado's existing programs the state's carbon emissions will be cut 28 percent by 2030.

Some industry and utility executives are wary of the proposed rules impacts.

"The EPA is placing state regulators in a difficult position to craft complex plans in a short period of time," said Lee Boughey, a spokesman for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., Colorado's second-largest electricity provider.

The regulations focus on coal-fired power plants, the nation's single largest source of carbon dioxide, contributing nearly 29 percent of the emissions in 2012.

That has drawn the ire of the mining industry.

"These regulations will hurt jobs and the economy," said Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association.

A study done for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy, a trade group, estimated that the West could lose 9,000 mining jobs as the result of the regulations.

Colorado has a renewable energy standard that requires investor-owned utilities — Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy — to get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Rural electric cooperatives, many members of Tri-State, have a 20 percent standard.

The state also requires energy efficiency programs for the investor-owned utilities.

Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest electricity provider, has already added renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Under the 2010 Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act, Xcel agreed to a $1.1 billion program to close six aging coal-fire plants, add pollution controls at two others and build a cleaner-burning gas fired plant for a total of about $1 billion.

The EPA rules, however, use 2012 as the starting point for emission cuts.

"We just want to make sure we get credit for the billions of dollars in investments we've made," said Jack Ilhe, Xcel's director of environmental policy. "We feel strongly that companies and states that have been proactive shouldn't be punished."

In 2010, Xcel generated 60 percent of its energy from coal. By 2020, coal will provide 48 percent of the electricity and renewable sources 29 percent, according to the company

In a press conference call Monday, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said the 2012 starting date was necessary to "implement the Clean Air Act as intended."

The Western Resource Advocates reading of the proposed rule would allow Colorado to count all the renewable energy it has created, most of the Clean Air-Clean Jobs carbon cuts and some energy efficiency savings.

The proposed rule offers four sources of carbon reductions: energy efficiency, improving coal plant efficiency, renewable energy and increased use of natural gas.

"It isn't limited to those four building blocks," McCarthy said. "States have the smarts and skill to pull this off."

Even with the gains in renewable energy and efficiency, in 2012, 65 percent of Colorado's electricity came from coal, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

"Colorado gets to meet its goals, even with all that coal generation, because in truth the bar in the rule is set very low," said Leslie Glustrom, research director for Boulder-based Clean Energy Action.

"But if you are trying to lose weight or quit smoking, you don't go cold turkey, you do it in steps," Glustrom said.

E&E : CLIMATE:

Green hoopla dominates start of EPA hearings on power plant rule

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

- resize text Resize Text
- Email Email
- Print Print

Hundreds of supporters of the Obama administration's flagship climate change rule turned the grounds around the U.S. EPA headquarters into a green carnival this morning as the agency opened the first public hearings on the proposal in Washington, D.C.

Stoking enthusiasm outside the William Jefferson Clinton Building was Ben & Jerry's, which handed out free cookie dough and fudge ice cream to rule backers -- notably children organized by the Moms Clean Air Task Force. The group is also staging "play-ins" at the other three EPA listening sessions this week in Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh.

Eight-year-old Logan Sheehan interrupted his pre-rally parachute play to say this wasn't his first go at civic engagement. He had already met Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) at a similar event last month at the Capitol, he said.

Asked what he remembered about that event, the rising third-grader answered, "Not much." He'll join his mom, Trisha Sheehan of Winona, N.J., who's scheduled to testify in the Clinton building later today.

Sheehan said she first became engaged in environmental issues after last September's Paulsboro, N.J., train derailment, which released toxic fumes into her town's air.

"Something bigger than me needs to be done to protect my children's future from dirty air," she said. "So that's what really spurred me into activism."

The outdoor rally coordinated by major environmental groups -- including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund and Environment America -- featured whirligigs, bongo drums and speeches.

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), fresh from his testimony in support of the rule, told the crowd that U.S. engagement on the issue is important, even before other countries take similar steps.

"We can't preach temperance from a bar stool," he said. "We have to be the leaders if we want China and India to follow."

<image002.jpg>

A Climate Reality Project truck handed out scoops of Ben & Jerry's ice cream outside of U.S. EPA's Washington, D.C., headquarters this morning. Photo by Robin Bravender.

The coal industry's lone outdoor ad was an electronic billboard parked on Constitution Avenue in front of the Clinton building. The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity offering faced off against another video billboard sponsored by the Climate Action Campaign, which helped coordinate messaging for national environmental groups.

At the hearing, EPA staffers sat at a table listening as commenters came forward two by two to give testimony on the June 2 proposal, which could lead to a substantial restructuring of the electric power system as it seeks to reduce the sector's emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The lineup of speakers included several politicians. Markey was joined by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) in morning testimony, while Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) testified against the rule in a separate room.

Capito said in her prepared testimony that the rule would be disastrous for her state's coal-based economy.

"With this unprecedented rule, the EPA has gone far beyond requiring existing coal plants operate as efficiently as possible," she said. "Instead, the very framework for this rule is built around shifting the country away from coal. The federal government has no business picking winners and losers in the energy economy, but that's exactly what the EPA's new rule would do."

Priority for greens

The hearings, which will continue in Washington, Denver and Atlanta tomorrow and Pittsburgh on Thursday, are aimed at providing EPA with feedback on its proposal. The agency's acting air chief Janet McCabe stood in the back of the hearing room through part of the morning's testimony.

National environmentalists have made protecting the rule from congressional and industry attacks a top priority. Their leaders expressed optimism this morning that they would succeed.

Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's newly minted president and CEO, said the environmental community would continue to present the rule as workable. O'Mara, who previously worked as chief of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, said his time there proved to him that regional programs like the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative can succeed and can be cost-effective.

<image003.jpg>

Advocates of EPA's climate rule held up signs of support outside the agency while friends and foes of the draft regulation squared off inside. Photo by Robin Bravender.

"Using that as a counter-example to some of the talking points on the other side" should be effective, he said. NWF's plan will be to work with "more moderate" lawmakers of both parties to avoid a fight over the rule, he added.

"I am absolutely committed to being much more focused on protecting wildlife and connecting more folks in their communities," said O'Mara, who just oversaw a staffing shakeup at NWF (*see related story*). That local focus is in part due to the gridlock in Washington, he said.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the rule has more supporters than its opponents believe, in part because of the method EPA followed in writing it.

"I think there's great appreciation around the country including from some public business for the fact that Gina McCarthy went out and listened to the concerns of people in the business community and incorporated a lot of the flexibility they were looking for in the rule," said Krupp, who has worked with business interests on similar issues in the past, including to enact cap and trade.

Krupp said that although the power plant rule is important, it is not the only action EPA can take to protect the climate. His group has worked extensively to improve data on methane released during natural gas development and has urged the agency to consider rules for those heat-trapping emissions.

"We could get roughly the same benefit in 2025 from a good rule closing methane leaks as we could get from the power plant rule," he said.

The White House set up this week's listening sessions by releasing a report this morning warning of the economic costs of delaying action to address climate change (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

Denver hearing

At EPA's Region 8 headquarters in Denver, testimony also skewed in favor in the regulations among the first few witnesses to speak during an expected 11 hours of statements.

Retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also advocates for mine safety, praised EPA for proposing new regulations but called on the agency to offer a more stringent version of its plan.

"The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front-line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us," Sturgill said.

His remarks drew a show of silent applause -- in which individuals raise their hands and wiggle their fingers -- from a half-dozen adults and children in the audience dressed in turquoise T-shirts with the statement "I [heart] Clean Air."

Those objecting to the proposed rules framed new regulations as an economic disaster in waiting.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity both for Moffat County and for the nation. ... Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid said in the first remarks of the session. "This isn't some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of northwest Colorado, to us this is personal."

During the first hour of the hearing, testimony in one of two rooms set up for the session was periodically slowed by technical difficulties as microphones provided to witnesses failed to work, and at one point sound from another room was apparently piped into the hearing room.

Reporter Jennifer Yachnin in Denver contributed.

AP: New EPA rules for power plant pollution draw criticism

<image004.jpg>

The Ameren Corp. coal-fired power plant, seen here in 2013, sits outside the southern Illinois town of Newton. *(The Associated Press)*

Print

<image005.jpg>By The Associated Press
Follow on Twitter
on July 29, 2014 at 11:16 AM, updated July 29, 2014 at 11:20 AM <image006.gif>

DENVER — Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

More information

Guidelines to submit written comments to the EPA: http://tinyurl.com/qetmzaj

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies, religious and civil rights organizations and others sent representatives to the hearings.

John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA in Denver the rules would devastate the economy in his area, home to a major power plant.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," he said. "Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan."

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and the public's. He suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases, Sturgill said.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he

said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

In Atlanta, elected regulators, business interests and labor officials said the proposed rules could raise electricity prices and cause job losses without significantly curtail global carbon emissions.

Supporters said the benefits far outweigh the potential costs.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

The Denver meetings are the only ones being held in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality.

Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana's Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, has said at least some of Colstrip's four generating units could continue to operate if the state can achieve emissions reductions in other areas.

Four power plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The Atlanta, Denver and Washington hearings continue Wednesday. The Pittsburgh hearings will be held Thursday and Friday.

-- The Associated Press

Bloomberg: Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 1:12 PM MT

- Comments Email Print

Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping rules proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of climate change will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve 12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.
"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

At the hearing at the EPA's headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation's largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

"Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way," Fred Palmer, the company's top regulatory official, said. "The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington."

Instead of the EPA's requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that

carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means "real and tangible effects for every citizen" by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn't generated by coal.

"By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants," testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. "It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation."

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year. Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the Department of Energy will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or renewable energy. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA's proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For Georgia, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including Kentucky, West Virginia and North Dakota, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our

infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The Natural Resources Defense Council said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

"In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods," David Doniger, the group's climate director, testified today.

To contact the reporters on this story: Jennifer Oldham in Denver at joldham1@bloomberg.net; Mark Drajem in Washington at mdrajem@bloomberg.net

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Jon Morgan at jmorgan97@bloomberg.net
Steve Geimann

E & E PM edition

EPA: At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

<image007.gif>

DENVER -- While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners.

Among the first speakers in a scheduled 11-hour session, Jones acknowledged that the trio of U.S. EPA officials tasked with overseeing the day's event could expect to hear the same arguments repeated over and over again.

"I appreciate you doing this, it must be mind-numbing, having sat on that side of the table," joked Jones, whose district includes Longmont, Colo.

Nearly three hours after Jones testified -- and dozens of witnesses, seated two at a time at the hearing table had their five minutes to speak -- he's been proven right, but the hearing is marching on with dozens of individuals expected to say their piece well into the evening.

In an interview outside the hearing, Jones said that despite his quip, he understands the importance of having a variety of individuals testify on the environmental regulation.

"People spend a lot of time getting ready to come in and talk to you. ... You never know when something's going to come up that you hadn't thought up -- that's what you're listening for," said Jones, whose own testimony focused on the impact of climate change on the state's wildfire season.

While many speakers cited statistics, Jones suggested that EPA officials could be equally affected by personal anecdotes. He pointed to the testimony of retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also addressed the panel during its morning session.

Citing his numerous respiratory illnesses, including black lung, Sturgill encouraged EPA to be more stringent in its rulemaking, telling the panel: "The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us."

But this isn't the first time Sturgill, a former federal mine inspector, has offered up his passionate appeal for stricter environmental standards.

In an interview outside the hearing, Sturgill noted his work with multiple groups, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. He said he once spent six months on parole after being arrested inside Rep. Hal Rogers' (R-Ky.) congressional office in an attempt to meet with his congressman.

"I just jumped right into the thick of it to challenge some of those environmental problems," Sturgill said of his decision to become an activist after retiring in 2009.

He appeared at the hearing today with a group of witnesses organized by the Massachusetts-based Civil Society Institute.

In the meantime, EPA officials expressed no concern that the hearing examiners, a mix of staff drawn from Denver, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., would have trouble remaining attentive throughout the day. Teams of three officials presided over each hearing room in four-hour shifts.

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.

Denver Post Blog: EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Posted By Lynn Bartels On July 29, 2014 @ 3:32 pm In 2014 - U.S. Senate election,Energy,Environment,National Politics,White House | No Comments

<image008.jpg>

Coal miners and protesters gather for a rally near the state Capitol against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to cut power-plant carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding the proposal. (Photo by Hyoung Chang/The Denver Post)

With the EPA holding hearings in Denver over its proposed power plant rule, the campaigns for U.S. Senate contenders Mark Udall and Cory Gardner went to work as Coloradans on the left and the right held rallies.

From Gardner, a GOP congressman challenging Udall:

Udall's Energy Policy Hurts Middle Class Coloradans

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a hearing on the Obama Administration's latest regulations impacting coal-fired power plants — rules that Senator Udall embraced as a "good start." Cory Gardner denounced Senator Udall's anti-energy policies that would empower federal regulators, destroy jobs, and drain pocketbooks.

From Udall, a Democrat seeking a second Senate term:

Gardner's Climate Science Denial Puts Colorado At Risk

Congressman Cory Gardner says he's new, but his stubborn denial of climate science is

backward and dangerous. As Colorado grapples with the effects of climate change on our water, our communities, mountain snowpack, and our farms and ranches, Gardner's radical refusal to accept the science behind climate change endangers our special way of life.

<image009.jpg>

NextGen Climate sets up a mock power plant with an anti Congressman Cory Gardner message outside the Denver EPA office, where a hearing is being held on a proposed carbon pollution standard. (Photo by RJ Sangosti/The Denver Post)

Colorado boasts one of the nation's most competitive Senate races [1] and one where the battle over energy [2] is key.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a two-day hearing [3] in Denver to consider the impact of proposed federal rules aimed at cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states.

Denver EPA hearing on carbon cuts draws big crowds, strong stands

<image010.jpg>

View Photos

Caitlin Hendee | Denver Business Journal

The Environmental Protection Agency held public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday, where speakers voiced their support or opposition to the agency's plan to require coal plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

<image011.jpg>

Caitlin Hendee

Digital Producer / Social Engagement Manager- *Denver Business Journal*

Email

Tuesday's opening of a two-day Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Denver on regulating carbon dioxide emissions drew warnings of pollution's health impacts from some who testified alongside predictions of job losses and rising energy costs from others.

Hundreds of people gathered in the two hearing rooms and additional video viewing rooms at EPA's Region 8 building at 1595 Wynkoop St. in LoDo for the first of two days of testimony on the rules, which particularly target emissions from coal-fired power plants.

One was retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill. He said people are dying, literally dying, for the EPA to help them, and the agency is not doing enough.

See Also

- Denver hosts EPA hearing on CO2 cuts
- Colorado already cutting CO2 ahead of EPA proposed rules
- What they're saying in Colorado about the EPA's proposed power-plant CO2 rules

"[CO2 pollution] really hurts me. It hurts my children, my grandchildren," Sturgill said, adding that he's developed black lung and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a result of living in a coal mining town.

Also on hand was Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, who said coal "means kids go to school and get an education. It means people can afford a house."

Moffat county is the northwesternmost county in Colorado. Kinkaid, who said Moffat's entire economy is dependent on its coal power plants, called the EPA's plan a "formula for poverty" for himself and the families who live there.

The EPA is holding public hearings in Denver, Atlanta, Washington and Pittsburgh this week so people could voice their opinions about the agency's plan to slash CO2 emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. About 1,600 people are signed up to testify in the four cities.

The plan (details here) is the first time the government has tried to cut carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from existing power plants, considered the "single largest source" of carbon pollution in the nation, according to the EPA.

"This is just a mere lean in the right direction," Sturgill told the panel of three EPA officials.

State Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, said any cost of reducing CO2 emissions is low compared to the costs of climate change.

"We have to be very aggressive with these rules," Jones said. "That's the bottom line."

And while much of the morning testimony reflected such sentiments, some disagreed.

One was Michael Hutchenson, an engineer with Ameren Corp., is a holding company for Missouri utilities servicing over 2.4 million natural gas customers.

Hutchenson testified said the cost of reducing emissions will cost himself and the company he works for dearly by job loss and raised utility prices.

Hutchenson said Ameren already cuts CO2 emissions on its own, and said a 2035 deadline might be a bit more attainable.

Colorado groups on hand for the hearing, such as the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), voiced similar concerns.

"If enacted, EPA's proposed rules would significantly squeeze the nation's energy infrastructure, cause substantial reliability concerns and ensure higher electricity prices across the board," said the CEA in a statement.

Outside of the hearing, environmental groups rallied to show their support of the EPA's proposed plans.

"I'm in complete support because I've witnessed first hand that [climate change] is real and something we need to change," said former Olympic alpine skier Kaylin Richardson.

Richardson testified Tuesday on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit that advocates against climate change.

Several speakers related numerous examples of the costs of CO2 emissions, which many believe causes climate change. Melting icecaps, hurricanes, rising temperatures, as well as health issues like cancers and lung diseases were some examples recited.

"Climate change is real. We cannot afford the cost of doing nothing," said Karen Hadden, executive director for Sustainable Energy & Economic Development Coalition, adding that she thinks the EPA should go even further and require that 30 percent of energy must come from renewable sources by 2050.

Testimony will continue all day Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Region 8 building.

Fox 31 Denver: Environmentalists flood EPA hearing on carbon rules in Denver

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<image012.jpg>

Employees from Colorado's coal industry joined Republicans at a rally protesting the Obama administration's proposed carbon emissions plan. The rally was organized by the group Americans For Prosperity.

DENVER — As two days of hearings on the Obama administration's proposal to curb carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030, environmentalists and industry groups made their cases — in the hearing room and all across town.

While clean energy companies and mothers standing alongside firefighters pushed the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the strongest rule possible to address climate change and improve air quality, Republicans stood with representatives of Colorado's coal industry in the shadows of the state Capitol at a rally organized by Koch-backed Americans For Prosperity and called for the administration to drop a proposal they believe will cost jobs.

Meanwhile, inside a hearing room on the second floor of the gleaming new EPA headquarters at 16th and Wynkoop in Lower Downtown, hundreds of people, each allowed just five minutes, put their feelings on the record.

The heart of the matter: weighing the potential short-term economic costs with the likely long-term costs of inaction.

"It is far cheaper to act strongly now," said state Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, one of the first people to testify in support of the proposal Tuesday morning.

The proposal is an existential threat to the more than 600 coal power plants across the country.

Under the proposed rule, states will be given flexibility about how to achieve the pollution cuts. Instead of immediately shutting down coal plants, states could choose to reduce emissions by installing new wind and solar generation or energy-efficiency technology, and by starting or joining state and regional "cap and trade" programs, in which states agree to cap carbon pollution and buy and sell permits to pollute.

Looking to combat fears about the economic impact on the industry, the Obama administration Tuesday released a study showing that failing to adequately reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change could cost the United States economy $150 billion a year

While many argued against the rules on the grounds they go too far — Moffat County Commissioner John Kincaid testified that the administration is waging a "war on coal" — others argued that they don't do enough.

"This rule is just a mere lean in the right direction. It's just not going to work for us," said

Stanley Sturgell, a retired Kentucky coal miner with black lung disease and COPD who flew himself to Denver to testify. Your targets for reducing pollution by 2030 are way too low and do not do enough to reduce our risk from climate change.

"We're dying — literally dying — for you to help us."

The hearing itself was dominated by environmental advocates pushing the administration to take action.

Meanwhile, the industry made its opposition known at a noon rally in Lincoln Park across from the Capitol.

"Barack Obama these are real Americans and real American jobs," yelled Bob Beauprez, the GOP nominee for governor. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families, off our dignity of work!"

Many in Moffat County, where the Twenty Mile Coal plant is the heart of the local economy, also see the EPA rule as a matter of life and death — for the local economy.

"The coal mines are pretty much our entire economy," said Brandi Meek, a mother of two and the Moffat County GOP chair.

Mary Frontczak, an executive with Peabody Energy Americas, the company that operates the Twenty Mile plant, said that the EPA's plan would make a miniscule difference when it comes to climate change at far too high a cost to her industry and its employees.

"This proposal needs to be withdrawn and there's overwhelming support for that," Frontczak said. "We're going to do something that's not going to have any benefit but will hurt our own people in this country."

Denver EPA hearing fires debate over costs of cutting carbon — or not

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 05:40:29 PM MDT | Updated: 7 min. ago

The federal proposal to cut coal-fired power plant carbon emissions will impact the nation's

economy and witnesses at Denver hearing Tuesday sparred over just what it will mean.

"EPA is trying to shut down the coal industry without regard," said Arch Coal Inc. spokesman Greg Schaefer. The company employs about 1,800 people in Wyoming and about 320 in Western Colorado. an executive with Arch Coal Inc. in Wyoming. "I urge EPA to withdraw the proposal."

But wind and solar industries advocates, as well as representatives of small business and ranching, said there are economic benefits to cutting carbon emissions and replacing fossil fuels.

"A booming wind industry" is creating jobs in Iowa, said Katherine McCormick, Midwest energy policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Iowa has 3,000 wind-related jobs and among the lowest energy costs in the country, which helped lure Google to locate a data center in Council Bluffs, McCormick said.

In Colorado, the wind industry has invested $4.3 billion, said Justin Wilson, executive director of the non-profit Western Clean Energy Campaign,

More than 230 people — from a half dozen states west of the Mississippi River — were slated to testify during Tuesday's 12-hour-long session.

The hearing is the only one of four sessions that is being held west of Pittsburgh. It continues Wednesday.

While witnesses testified one-after-the-other, rallies for and against the proposal were held around town.

The EPA rule aims to cut carbon dioxide emission, a gas linked to climate change, by an average 30 percent over 2012 levels by 2030.

The targets are set state by state. Colorado has a 35 percent goal.

As the result of its efficiency and renewable energy programs and a plan by Xcel Energy to close aging coal plants, the state is in a good position to meet its goal, says a study by Boulder-based Western Resource Advocates.

Some opponents of the rule question whether climate change is real — despite extensive scientific studies documenting the phenomenon — or how severe its impacts will be.

There was little of that testimony, but much about the economic impact of the proposed rule and climate change.

The risk of extreme weather — like Colorado's 2013 flood or Hurricane Sandy in 2012 — pose a special risk to small businesses, said Tim Gaudette, outreach manager for Small Business Majority, a San Francisco-based business advocacy group.

"Twenty-five percent of small businesses do not reopen after a big event," Gaudette said.

Property damage, loss of employees and revenue often make it difficult to bounce back and most small businesses have only a single location, Gaudette said.

Still, the broader costs to the economy will be expensive said Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association.

The rules would "create a de facto ban on old coal plants," Downing said, citing a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that calculated the annual cost of the rule to the economy at $51 billion.

"Coal is America's most abundant, reliable and cheapest energy source," Downing said.

Other witnesses cited another economic study — "Risky Business" — which estimated that coastal states alone face $35 billion in annual costs due to higher sea levels and storm surges. The study was backed by a bipartisan group that includes former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

"Outdated polices and a failure of government action hold us back," Jenn Vervier, director of strategy and sustainability for Fort Collins-based New Belgium Brewing.

Vervier said that New Belgium has been abel to grow to a staff 562, even as it followed sustainable energy policies.

"Making world-class beer, being honorable and making a profit go hand in hand," Vervier said.

Mark Fix, a Miles City, Montana, rancher, told tales of cleaning fields after tornadoes and rescuing heifers from flood waters.

Any steps to moderate the impacts of climate change are welcome, he said.

"We in agriculture have to deal with weather every day," Fix said. "It can make us or break us."

Colorado Independent: Bob Beauprez headlines pro-coal rally

EPA carbon-cutting draw criticism from coal miners, industry and Republican gubernatorial candidate

http://www.coloradoindependent.com/148425/bob-beauprez-headlines-pro-coal-rally

Tessa Cheek
July 29, 2014 Elections 2014 No Comments
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DENVER — Republican gubernatorial candidate and former Congressman Bob Beauprez joined a rally of more than 100 coal industry advocates and employees before the state capital today to protest the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cuts to emissions from coal-burning power plants. As those hearings ran in downtown Denver, Beauprez stood with the sign-bearing children of coal miners to say that he was grateful for coal and that the regulations unfairly punish the largely working class families and communities who are sustained by that industry.

"It's jobs, it's real people. This is their livelihood at risk here," Beauprez told *The Colorado Independent*. "These rules would turn a town like Craig, a town like Delta into ghost towns."

The Colorado Mining Association reported that Colorado coal mines employed just over 2,000 people in 2013. But Beauprez emphasized that it's not just those who are directly employed by the industry who will be impacted by a decrease in coal production and use as a result of the EPA's new rules. He recalled the dwindling of the oil and gas industry in Mesa County and a guitar teacher he met there who was nearly out of business after losing 30 students when their parents, out of work, could no longer afford lessons.

"We've have never used coal cleaner, safer and more efficiently than we do right now," said Beauprez to loud cheers from the crowd.

On the other side of town, where they rallied in favor of the EPA's new rules, conservationists were equally loud in critiquing Beauprez's speech today. Conservation Colorado's Executive Director Pete Maysmith issued a release just as Beauprez took the stage:

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century dirt fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology."

Hearings on the EPA's proposed rules to reduce emissions from coal-burning power plants nationwide, will continue tomorrow in Denver — the only site of such a hearing in the West. Keep an eye out tomorrow for *The Colorado Independent's* multimedia feature on the hearings.

Denver Post: Denver protests over proposed EPA power-plant rules stoked by politics

By Joey Bunch and Thad Moore
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 04:17:53 PM MDT8 Comments | Updated: 61 min. ago

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26238611/denver-protests-over-proposed-epa-power-plant-rules

<image025.jpg>

Coalminers and protesters gather for the rally against the Environmental Protection Agency's rule at Lincoln Park. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding its proposed rule for carbon emissions from existing power plants. (Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

- Jul 29:
- Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little
- Denver EPA hearing fires debate over costs of cutting carbon — or not
- EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Hundreds of people, many of them coal miners and power company employees, rallied near the Colorado Capitol Tuesday against proposed rules to cut power-plant emissions, saying the regulations would kill coal jobs and raise power bills.

"This is about protecting our American way of life and our life in Colorado," Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association, told the fired-up crowd protesting during the two-day EPA hearing in Denver.

Three other hearings on the proposed rules — which would force power plants to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide by 2030 — will be held. The Denver hearing is the only one scheduled for a location west of the Mississippi River.

Opponents to the rules say they will kill jobs and jack up consumers' electricity bills. Supporters say clean air and more jobs will be lost if emissions from coal-fired plants exacerbate climate change and hurts Colorado's winter tourism industry.

At Denver's Commons Park, Moms Clean Air Force and CO Moms Know Best, which favor the regulations, gathered for a "play-in" with children to highlight the state's outdoors and the potential health threats power-plant emissions pose. Children played, painted and

picketed nearby.

Regulation supporters came from Santa Fe, N.M., San Francisco, Pueblo, Grand Junction and elsewhere.

Keira Hatton of Pueblo said she has a genetic lung condition that makes her sensitive to pollutants, and on days when she sees smog on the horizon she thinks about going home. She knows the EPA's regulations wouldn't clean the air overnight, but she worries for her daughter and thinks it's a worthwhile effort.

"Any step in the right direction is the right way," she said.

Jamie Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Knows Best, said about one-third of children's hospitalizations in Colorado are asthma-related. The Sierra Club echoed her concern by inflating a giant inhaler across Wynkoop Street from the EPA's office.

Travis said that while her family, like others, is concerned about paying higher power bills in the short term, it's better than paying higher health care costs.

"The health and well-being of our children now and throughout their lives must be the top priority in setting new carbon emission limits on power plants," said John Friedrich, who works for Climate Parents. "We're here to say with our kids in mind, we can't afford not to."

John Lauer, who was a hotshot firefighter in Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, said he's seen the effects of climate change firsthand: Fires in the West have grown more explosive and spread faster, he said.

The experience led him to support the EPA's proposal, he said at a rally on Millennium Bridge, adding that he thinks the government should support coal workers transition into new work.

"There's a remarkable opportunity for innovation and employment in a new, low-carbon economy," Lauer said. "In the West I can envision two futures: one full of smoke and the other full of innovation."

The hearings created a lot of political hot air. At the rally opposing the regulations, people carried signs that stated "Save America, Impeach Obama,"

"Barack Obama, these are real Americans, and real American jobs," said Republican gubernatorial nominee Bob Beauprez at the Veterans Memorial at the foot of the state Capitol. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families and off our dignity of work."

Beauprez said he supports development of renewable energy, but "if we're really going to be about all-of-the-above, why do we take the biggest part of all-of-the-above right off the table," he said of coal.

Beauprez added, "We have never used coal cleaner, safer, more efficiently than we do right now. That isn't something to punish. It's something to celebrate."

The rally was put on by a coalition of 28 businesses and groups, led by mining associations in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Pete Maysmith, executive director of Conservation Colorado, called the event "a dirty energy rally" and singled out Beauprez.

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century, dirty fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology," he stated, accusing Beauprez of "failed policies and leadership of days long gone past."

Dustin Zvonek, Colorado state director of Americans for Prosperity, said the EPA's rules were about ideology, common sense.

"And in the process is threatening to destroy tens of thousands of jobs and drive up the cost of energy," he said in a statement.

The events were political long before Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner issued a statement Tuesday morning slamming his opponent in Colorado's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Mark Udall, who supported the proposed emissions measures.

"Sen. Udall's out-of-touch record on energy has Coloradans understandably concerned about the economic future of our state," Gardner stated. "Coloradans would suffer under Senator Udall's federal ploy to levy new taxes and crush the working and middle classes with higher electricity prices."

The National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee has been targeting Udall with robocalls in Colorado since early June, saying the measures would jack up electricity bills for consumers. Udall's called the Obama administration's rules "a good start."

His campaign called Gardner a science-denier Tuesday and that his views are "backward and dangerous."

"Like Mark, Coloradans support finding the right balance between energy development and protecting our clean air and water," Udall campaign spokeswoman Kristin Lynch said. "Rather than work to protect our environment and grow our economy, Congressman Gardner would give polluters free rein to contaminate the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Joey Bunch: 303-954-1174, jbunch@denverpost.com or twitter.com/joeybunch

To: Noonan, Jenny[Noonan.Jenny@epa.gov]
From: McMichael, Nate
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 11:33:35 PM
Subject: Fw: Article in Daily Caller saying we're barring opposition groups

Nate McMichael
USEPA Office of Air and Radiation
202 564 0382 (o)
202 236 4176 (c)

From: Levy, Jeffrey <Levy.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:57 AM
To: Allen, Laura; Cashin, Mary; Davis, Alison; Dennis, Allison; Drinkard, Andrea; Dwyer, Madeleine; graves, john; Johnson, Alisha; Jung, Gyeongbae; Lee, Monica; Lincoln, Larry; Luo, Zeya; McMichael, Nate; Orquina, Jessica; Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; schafer, joan; Seneca, Roy; Smith, Roxanne; White, Terri-A
Subject: Article in Daily Caller saying we're barring opposition groups

Daily Caller article posted at 1:19 today.

@_donaldson (RightWired) tweeted it: Fascist @EPA Bars Some Opposition Groups From Carbon Hearings http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/ … via @dailycaller

We won't reply to this tweet.

Here's the whole article:

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/

The Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its week of field hearings on its Clean Power Plan. Thousands have signed up to speak, but others got notices from the EPA saying they would not get a time slot to testify before agency officials.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The plan has been backed by environmental groups and Democrats, but opposed by businesses and Republicans who say it will raise energy costs and force the shutdown of coal plants.

To get feedback on the rule, the agency announced four public field hearings across the country this week. The hearings will take place at federal buildings in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

Around 1,600 people have signed up to speak, but not everyone was allowed to have time to testify before agency officials. Some groups critical of the EPA's agenda were not able to secure speaking slots despite signing up early.

Matthew Kandrach was surprised to find an email from the EPA eight days after he submitted a request for a time slot to speak. Kandrach is vice president at the free-market group the 60 Plus Association, which is opposed to the EPA's CPP because it would raise power prices for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

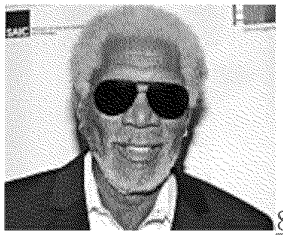
"This is literally a life or death situation for seniors when they have to choose between food, medication and energy," Kandrach told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Kandrach signed up for on July 9 for his group to speak at hearings in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. After signing up for the hearing, he got no confirmation email, but was simply directed to a landing page which thanked him for his submission. With no confirmation email sent, the 60 Plus Association believed they had secured a time to speak.

But eight days later, Kandrach got a confusing email (which went into his spam folder) from an EPA official saying no time slots were left open to speak at the hearing in Atlanta. The EPA official said they would be able to attend the Atlanta hearing and could even request to have speaking time, but there was no guarantee such a request would be granted.

"Once you sign up why wouldn't you get an instant response?" Kandrach asked TheDCNF. "Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up."

"Why didn't they do even more sign-ups if they were too overwhelmed?" Kandrach added.


8 Celebs Who Have Severe IllnessesPressroomVIP

15 Good Looking Celebrities Who Destroyed Themselv…SheBudgets

Who Knew These 20 Male Mega Stars Were So Small?POPnHOP

Top 10 Cancer Causing Foods You Eat Every DayNaturalON

by Taboola

Sponsored Content

The free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute encountered a similar problem. It too signed up to speak on the record at the hearing in Washington, D.C., only to receive an email about two weeks later saying it would not get a speaking time slot.

“We signed up very shortly after we had the ability to do so,” CEI senior fellow William Yeatman told TheDCNF. “Ten to thirteen days later, we were told all the time slots were full and they could not accommodate us.”

“I’m very disappointed,” Yeatman added. “I thought we signed up early enough to get a spot.”

TheDCNF was also told by sources that the National Black Chamber of Commerce was not able

to secure a speaking slot for at least one of the EPA hearings, but the group did not immediately respond to our request for comment. NBCC has warned that EPA's carbon emissions cuts would raise prices, disproportionately harm minority businesses and communities.

"For low-income Americans, too many of whom are African-American, this rule could also be extremely harmful," NBCC Harry Ashford wrote in the Hill newspaper. "With energy costs rising at a pace greater than the average family income, families, especially low-income families, are shouldering an enormous burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing."

"Many groups and individuals who hoped to provide their input at this week's public hearings were not even able to secure a speaking slot, and the high demand for input, and growing chorus of opposition, reinforces the need to expand the public comment period and hold more hearings across the country, especially in areas most affected by these overreaching regulations," said Laura Sheehan, spokeswoman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

"Contrary to what you have heard, we're working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak," an EPA spokesman told TheDCNF. "We expect to hear from about 1,600 people over the course of the week."

The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states "must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held." Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

"This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents') attendance now virtually impossible," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren't likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

Even environmentalist were shocked by the agency's stringent ID requirements. But the EPA has said it would work to make sure everyone who wanted to see the hearing was able to.

"We were pretty taken aback by it," Alex DeSha, an organizer for the Sierra Club in eastern Kentucky, told E&E News. "A lot of people don't know that this is even a thing."

"It's 200 bucks to get a passport expedited," DeSha added. "It's just one more step that will disenfranchise people from engaging in the public process."

The coal industry and others have also criticized the EPA for the location of the public hearings — in space-restricted locations far away from coal country.

"It seems like there's been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage," Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

Read more: http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38shZscKb

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From: McMichael, Nate
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 2:01:14 AM
Subject: Fw: Denver hearing coverage

Fyi- news from Denver.

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From: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Johnson, Alisha; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Millett, John; McMichael, Nate; Davis, Alison
Cc: McGrath, Shaun; Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Subject: Denver hearing coverage

Hi all- here's a collection of some of the more significant clips related to the Denver hearing today, including several articles from the Denver Post.

Rich

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_26232488/epa-greenhouse-gas-plan-could-up-pressure-colorado

EPA greenhouse-gas plan could up pressure on Colorado power utilities

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

A two-day hearing by the federal Environmental Protection Agency is being held in Denver. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Colorado is further along in cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states — the question is how far along and what would be the impact of proposed federal rules.

Those issues will be at the core of a two-day hearing held by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Denver starting Tuesday.

The proposed EPA rule seeks to cut emissions of carbon dioxide — the largest man-made greenhouse gas by volume — by 30 percent nationwide by 2030.

The EPA is proposing the rules under the Clean Air Act to blunt the gas, which scientific studies show traps extra heat in the atmosphere.

Other power plant pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and mercury, also are regulated under the act. The EPA proposal sets targets for each state based on the local power supply and existing energy policies and calls for each state to develop its own reduction plan. Colorado has a 35 percent target.

"We are not done yet, but all the polices in place make it doable for Colorado," said Stacey Tellinghuisen, an analyst with the Boulder-based environmental policy group Western Resource Advocates.

An analysis by Western Resources Advocates estimates that with just Colorado's existing programs the state's carbon emissions will be cut 28 percent by 2030.

Some industry and utility executives are wary of the proposed rules impacts.

"The EPA is placing state regulators in a difficult position to craft complex plans in a short period of time," said Lee Boughey, a spokesman for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., Colorado's second-largest electricity provider.

The regulations focus on coal-fired power plants, the nation's single largest source of carbon dioxide, contributing nearly 29 percent of the emissions in 2012.

That has drawn the ire of the mining industry.

"These regulations will hurt jobs and the economy," said Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association.

A study done for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy, a trade group, estimated that the West could lose 9,000 mining jobs as the result of the regulations.

Colorado has a renewable energy standard that requires investor-owned utilities — Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy — to get 30 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Rural electric cooperatives, many members of Tri-State, have a 20 percent standard.

The state also requires energy efficiency programs for the investor-owned utilities.

Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest electricity provider, has already added renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Under the 2010 Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act, Xcel agreed to a $1.1 billion program to close six aging coal-fire plants, add pollution controls at two others and build a cleaner-burning gas fired plant for a total of about $1 billion.

The EPA rules, however, use 2012 as the starting point for emission cuts.

"We just want to make sure we get credit for the billions of dollars in investments we've made," said Jack Ilhe, Xcel's director of environmental policy. "We feel strongly that companies and states that have been proactive shouldn't be punished."

In 2010, Xcel generated 60 percent of its energy from coal. By 2020, coal will provide 48 percent of the electricity and renewable sources 29 percent, according to the company

In a press conference call Monday, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said the 2012 starting date was necessary to "implement the Clean Air Act as intended."

The Western Resource Advocates reading of the proposed rule would allow Colorado to count all the renewable energy it has created, most of the Clean Air-Clean Jobs carbon cuts and some

energy efficiency savings.

The proposed rule offers four sources of carbon reductions: energy efficiency, improving coal plant efficiency, renewable energy and increased use of natural gas.

"It isn't limited to those four building blocks," McCarthy said. "States have the smarts and skill to pull this off."

Even with the gains in renewable energy and efficiency, in 2012, 65 percent of Colorado's electricity came from coal, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

"Colorado gets to meet its goals, even with all that coal generation, because in truth the bar in the rule is set very low," said Leslie Glustrom, research director for Boulder-based Clean Energy Action.

"But if you are trying to lose weight or quit smoking, you don't go cold turkey, you do it in steps," Glustrom said.

E&E : CLIMATE:

Green hoopla dominates start of EPA hearings on power plant rule

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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Hundreds of supporters of the Obama administration's flagship climate change rule turned the grounds around the U.S. EPA headquarters into a green carnival this morning as the agency opened the first public hearings on the proposal in Washington, D.C.

Stoking enthusiasm outside the William Jefferson Clinton Building was Ben & Jerry's, which handed out free cookie dough and fudge ice cream to rule backers -- notably children organized by the Moms Clean Air Task Force. The group is also staging "play-ins" at the other three EPA listening sessions this week in Atlanta, Denver and Pittsburgh.

Eight-year-old Logan Sheehan interrupted his pre-rally parachute play to say this wasn't his first go at civic engagement. He had already met Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) at a similar event last month at the Capitol, he said.

Asked what he remembered about that event, the rising third-grader answered, "Not much." He'll join his

mom, Trisha Sheehan of Winona, N.J., who's scheduled to testify in the Clinton building later today.

Sheehan said she first became engaged in environmental issues after last September's Paulsboro, N.J., train derailment, which released toxic fumes into her town's air.

"Something bigger than me needs to be done to protect my children's future from dirty air," she said. "So that's what really spurred me into activism."

The outdoor rally coordinated by major environmental groups -- including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund and Environment America -- featured whirligigs, bongo drums and speeches.

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), fresh from his testimony in support of the rule, told the crowd that U.S. engagement on the issue is important, even before other countries take similar steps.

"We can't preach temperance from a bar stool," he said. "We have to be the leaders if we want China and India to follow."

A Climate Reality Project truck handed out scoops of Ben & Jerry's ice cream outside of U.S. EPA's Washington, D.C., headquarters this morning. Photo by Robin Bravender.

The coal industry's lone outdoor ad was an electronic billboard parked on Constitution Avenue in front of the Clinton building. The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity offering faced off against another

video billboard sponsored by the Climate Action Campaign, which helped coordinate messaging for national environmental groups.

At the hearing, EPA staffers sat at a table listening as commenters came forward two by two to give testimony on the June 2 proposal, which could lead to a substantial restructuring of the electric power system as it seeks to reduce the sector's emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The lineup of speakers included several politicians. Markey was joined by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) in morning testimony, while Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) testified against the rule in a separate room.

Capito said in her prepared testimony that the rule would be disastrous for her state's coal-based economy.

"With this unprecedented rule, the EPA has gone far beyond requiring existing coal plants operate as efficiently as possible," she said. "Instead, the very framework for this rule is built around shifting the country away from coal. The federal government has no business picking winners and losers in the energy economy, but that's exactly what the EPA's new rule would do."

Priority for greens

The hearings, which will continue in Washington, Denver and Atlanta tomorrow and Pittsburgh on Thursday, are aimed at providing EPA with feedback on its proposal. The agency's acting air chief Janet McCabe stood in the back of the hearing room through part of the morning's testimony.

National environmentalists have made protecting the rule from congressional and industry attacks a top priority. Their leaders expressed optimism this morning that they would succeed.

Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's newly minted president and CEO, said the environmental community would continue to present the rule as workable. O'Mara, who previously worked as chief of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, said his time there proved to him that regional programs like the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative can succeed and can be cost-effective.

Advocates of EPA's climate rule held up signs of support outside the agency while friends and foes of the draft regulation squared off inside. Photo by Robin Bravender.

"Using that as a counter-example to some of the talking points on the other side" should be effective, he said. NWF's plan will be to work with "more moderate" lawmakers of both parties to avoid a fight over the rule, he added.

"I am absolutely committed to being much more focused on protecting wildlife and connecting more folks in their communities," said O'Mara, who just oversaw a staffing shakeup at NWF (*see related story*). That local focus is in part due to the gridlock in Washington, he said.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the rule has more supporters than its opponents believe, in part because of the method EPA followed in writing it.

"I think there's great appreciation around the country including from some public business for the fact that Gina McCarthy went out and listened to the concerns of people in the business community and incorporated a lot of the flexibility they were looking for in the rule," said Krupp, who has worked with business interests on similar issues in the past, including to enact cap and trade.

Krupp said that although the power plant rule is important, it is not the only action EPA can take to protect the climate. His group has worked extensively to improve data on methane released during natural gas development and has urged the agency to consider rules for those heat-trapping emissions.

"We could get roughly the same benefit in 2025 from a good rule closing methane leaks as we could get from the power plant rule," he said.

The White House set up this week's listening sessions by releasing a report this morning warning of the economic costs of delaying action to address climate change (*ClimateWire*, July 29).

Denver hearing

At EPA's Region 8 headquarters in Denver, testimony also skewed in favor in the regulations among the

first few witnesses to speak during an expected 11 hours of statements.

Retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also advocates for mine safety, praised EPA for proposing new regulations but called on the agency to offer a more stringent version of its plan.

"The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front-line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us," Sturgill said.

His remarks drew a show of silent applause -- in which individuals raise their hands and wiggle their fingers -- from a half-dozen adults and children in the audience dressed in turquoise T-shirts with the statement "I [heart] Clean Air."

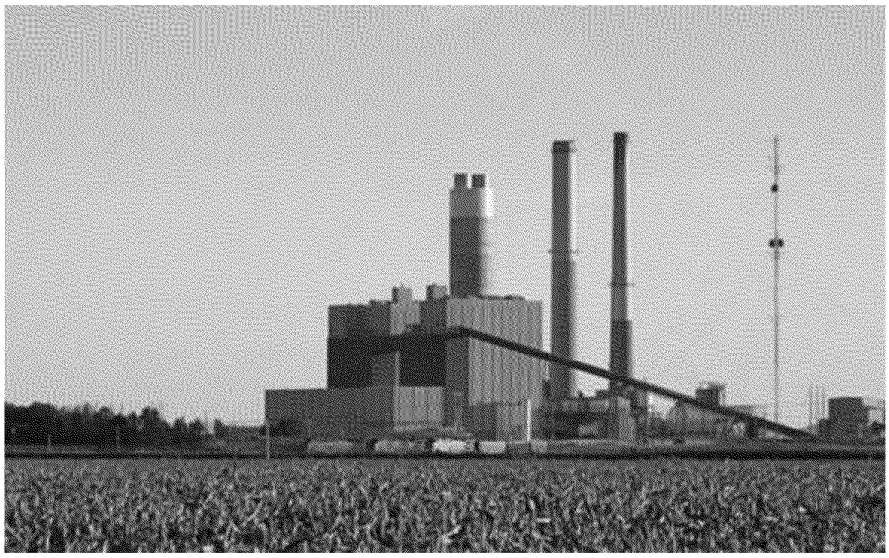
Those objecting to the proposed rules framed new regulations as an economic disaster in waiting.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is really a war on prosperity both for Moffat County and for the nation. ... Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid said in the first remarks of the session. "This isn't some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of northwest Colorado, to us this is personal."

During the first hour of the hearing, testimony in one of two rooms set up for the session was periodically slowed by technical difficulties as microphones provided to witnesses failed to work, and at one point sound from another room was apparently piped into the hearing room.

Reporter Jennifer Yachnin in Denver contributed.

AP: New EPA rules for power plant pollution draw criticism



The Ameren Corp. coal-fired power plant, seen here in 2013, sits outside the southern Illinois town of Newton. *(The Associated Press)*

Print

By The Associated Press
Follow on Twitter
on July 29, 2014 at 11:16 AM, updated July 29, 2014 at 11:20 AM

DENVER — Hundreds of people across the country lined up Tuesday to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that its new rules for power-plant pollution either go too far or not far enough.

The agency is holding hearings this week in Atlanta, Denver, Pittsburgh and Washington on President Barack Obama's plan to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030, with 2005 levels as the starting point. The rules are intended to curb global warming.

More information

Guidelines to submit written comments to the EPA: http://tinyurl.com/qetmzaj

Coal mines, electric utilities, labor unions, environmental groups, renewable energy companies, government agencies, religious and civil rights organizations and others sent representatives to the hearings.

John Kinkaid, a Moffat County, Colorado, commissioner, told the EPA in Denver the rules would devastate the economy in his area, home to a major power plant.

"Energy is the lifeblood of our economy," he said. "Moffat County deserves better than to be turned into another Detroit, Michigan."

Retired coal miner Stanley Sturgill of Harlan County, Kentucky, traveled to Denver to tell the EPA that coal-fired plants are crippling his health and the public's. He suffers from black lung and other respiratory diseases, Sturgill said.

"The rule does not do nearly enough to protect the health of the front-line communities," he said. "We're dying, literally dying, for you to help us."

In Atlanta, elected regulators, business interests and labor officials said the proposed rules could raise electricity prices and cause job losses without significantly curtail global carbon emissions.

Supporters said the benefits far outweigh the potential costs.

The EPA expects 1,600 people to speak in the four cities and has already received more than 300,000 written comments, which will be accepted until Oct. 16.

The Denver meetings are the only ones being held in the West, where the topic of air pollution traditionally sets off a loud debate over environmental values and economic vitality.

Three of the top 10 coal-producing states are in the West — Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Wyoming is No. 1, producing nearly 40 percent of the U.S. total and more than three times as much as West Virginia, the No. 2 state, according to the National Mining Association.

States would have wide latitude in choosing how to meet the administration's goals. That leaves an uncertain fate for some of the West's large coal-fired power plants, including Montana's 2,100-megawatt Colstrip plant.

Montana's Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, has said at least some of Colstrip's four generating units could continue to operate if the state can achieve emissions reductions in other areas.

Four power plants on tribal land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah will be dealt with under a separate proposal yet to be announced.

Even without the new rules, coal plants face increasing pressure from regulators to rein in other forms of pollution. Federal officials said Monday that Arizona's Navajo Generating Station will produce one-third less energy by 2020 and could close by 2044 under a rule aimed at reducing haze-causing nitrogen oxide pollution.

EPA technical experts will listen to the comments, and a transcript will go into the EPA record, agency spokeswoman Lisa McClain-Vanderpool said. The EPA plans to release the final rules next year.

The Atlanta, Denver and Washington hearings continue Wednesday. The Pittsburgh hearings will be held Thursday and Friday.

-- The Associated Press

Bloomberg: Coal Miners Clash With Ski Operators Over EPA's Coal Rule

By Jennifer Oldham and Mark Drajem Jul 29, 2014 1:12 PM MT

- Comments Email Print

Colorado coal miners took on the state's ski industry, both warning of job losses at a public hearing on sweeping rules proposed by the Obama administration to cut pollution from power plants.

The ski industry said without rules, the advance of climate change will result in less snow, meaning fewer tourists and fewer jobs. Mining companies said the plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions would cut jobs.

"The environmental extremist war on coal is a really a war on prosperity," said John Kinkaid, a commissioner in Moffat County, which borders Wyoming and Utah in northwest Colorado and is home to miners.

Environmentalists, company officials and community leaders lined up early today in Denver, to testify on proposed rules that would trim emissions nationwide by an average 17 percent through 2030. Dozens of Sierra Club members in sea green T-shirts reading "I (heart) Clean Air" were among more than 1,600 people who signed up to speak at hearings in Denver and three other cities this week: Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

The EPA's plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants, released June 2, is among the most complex in agency history, promising to rewrite a century of electricity generation and distribution precedent. The proposal includes separate goals for states based on the agency's determination of what each could do to generate electricity with less carbon pollution and to use it more efficiently.

Denver Hearing

Inside the Denver regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, economic trade offs were debated at a session that was expected to go late into the night. By mid-morning, the agency said the downtown building had reached its capacity, with people coming from as far away as California, Iowa, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and other states to testify.

"We increasingly rely on snow making to ensure we are open from Thanksgiving to mid-April," Matthew Hamilton, sustainability director at Aspen/Snowmass, which runs four areas, said in an interview previewing his comments today. "Without that, we wouldn't be able to offer top to bottom skiing."

Ski industry leaders said the EPA's 645-page U.S. blueprint is necessary to slow changes in climate that cause drier winters, keeping skiers away. Colorado state legislators tied global warming to the state's worst flood in a century last September.

Frost Free

Global warming is causing an increase in frost-free days, forcing Colorado ski areas that serve

12.6 million skiers a year -- more than any other U.S. state -- to shorten their season.

In a radio ad that ran 260 times in the Denver area in the week before the hearing, the Sierra Club and Snowriders International encouraged residents to testify, saying "as the snowpack disappears, so do our jobs and communities."

Officials from Colorado counties with mines that make the state the nation's ninth most productive coal-producer said the plan would lead to job losses in a region that hasn't recovered from the recession.

"Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Economic Impact

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said. "Coal means families can buy homes and put food on the table -- mining companies are the largest taxpayers Moffat and Routt counties," Kinkaid said.

Mines in western Colorado contribute $428 million a year in economic impact, he said.

At the hearing at the EPA's headquarters in Washington, St. Louis-based Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU), the nation's largest coal producer, said the EPA plan would unnecessarily cause a jump in electricity prices and drive out U.S.-based manufacturers.

"Climate change is an issue we need to deal with in the right way," Fred Palmer, the company's top regulatory official, said. "The only way to approach it is with technology, not with command-and-control from Washington."

Instead of the EPA's requirements, the Peabody said that Congress should provide funding for research in systems to capture carbon emissions from smokestacks, and the federal government should provide the permits and insurance needed to get utilities to store that carbon underground.

Mining Companies

In Denver, a trade association for 39 mining companies in Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, said the proposal means "real and tangible effects for every citizen" by not addressing what will make up the difference when electricity isn't generated by coal.

"By taking this action with the Clean Power Plan it creates a de facto ban on old coal power plants," testified Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association. "It is essentially eliminating coal as a future source of electricity for our nation."

The EPA effort is part of a larger climate plan unveiled by President Barack Obama last year.

Obama has made curbing carbon pollution central to his second term, and getting the EPA rules approved is a cornerstone of that effort.

Additionally, the administration is moving to curb methane emissions and the Department of Energy will unveil new efforts later today.

In practice, the EPA rules, if upheld by the courts, will mean less electricity from plants that burn emission-heavy coal and more from cleaner-burning natural gas, nuclear or renewable energy. It will also, the EPA predicts, curb demand for electricity by promoting efficiency, and actually lead to job gains and lower electric bills -- though some industry leaders vigorously dispute those last two points.

Renewable Energy

The EPA's proposed cuts in emission rates vary widely by state. Colorado, rich in natural-gas reserves, must cut by 35 percent. For Georgia, which has a new nuclear plant under construction, the proposed rate reduction of 44 percent by 2030 counts among the larger cuts.

Coal states including Kentucky, West Virginia and North Dakota, with few gas plants and little history of renewable energy, will face modest reductions.

At the hearing, Colorado state legislators said warmer temperatures contributed to the state's worst flood in a century.

"In my district last September we were hit by a flood we've never seen the likes of before," said state Representative Matt Jones, a Democrat from Louisville, Colorado.

"Two thousand homes were destroyed and we had $3.3 billion in flood damage," he said. "My county is going for a sales tax increase to pay for the damage. That's our future -- our infrastructure is at stake."

Singing, Chanting

In Washington, dozens of activists carrying American flags and miniature windmills sang, chanted and posed for photographs outside of the EPA headquarters.

The Climate Reality Project offered free Ben & Jerry's ice cream scoops to those who followed a simple process: file a comment to the White House supporting the rule, sign a petition for the plan and tweet that support to the world.

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, across Lafayette Park from the White House, a few climate protesters handed out leaflets, warning that climate change poses a risk to business and protesting the business lobby's opposition to the EPA rules.

Inside the building, the author of failed legislation to impose a nationwide cap-and-trade program in the U.S., backed the EPA plan as something that would be both a way to heal the planet's "fever" and to create more clean-energy jobs.

Revisions Sought

"When America sets strong safeguards, millions of jobs are created, Americans are healthier and our air and water are cleaner," Massachusetts Democratic Senator Ed Markey testified. Markey, then a congressman, sponsored the measure that passed the Democratic-controlled House in 2009, and never came up for a vote in the Senate.

While environmental advocates largely supported the EPA's effort, some also called for revisions. The Natural Resources Defense Council said EPA should ratchet down its requirements to mandate a cut of up to 40 percent in carbon emissions by 2020, instead of 30 percent by 2030.

"In our view, even larger reductions are achievable cost-effectively in these time periods," David Doniger, the group's climate director, testified today.

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E & E PM edition

EPA: At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

DENVER -- While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners.

Among the first speakers in a scheduled 11-hour session, Jones acknowledged that the trio of U.S. EPA officials tasked with overseeing the day's event could expect to hear the same arguments repeated over and over again.

"I appreciate you doing this, it must be mind-numbing, having sat on that side of the table," joked Jones, whose district includes Longmont, Colo.

Nearly three hours after Jones testified -- and dozens of witnesses, seated two at a time at the hearing table had their five minutes to speak -- he's been proven right, but the hearing is marching on with dozens of individuals expected to say their piece well into the evening.

In an interview outside the hearing, Jones said that despite his quip, he understands the importance of having a variety of individuals testify on the environmental regulation.

"People spend a lot of time getting ready to come in and talk to you. ... You never know when something's going to come up that you hadn't thought up -- that's what you're listening for," said Jones, whose own testimony focused on the impact of climate change on the state's wildfire season.

While many speakers cited statistics, Jones suggested that EPA officials could be equally affected by personal anecdotes. He pointed to the testimony of retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill, who also addressed the panel during its morning session.

Citing his numerous respiratory illnesses, including black lung, Sturgill encouraged EPA to be more stringent in its rulemaking, telling the panel: "The very reason I'm here today, the reason I flew from Kentucky to Denver, the rule does not do near enough to protect the health of the front line communities. ... We're literally dying for you to help us."

But this isn't the first time Sturgill, a former federal mine inspector, has offered up his passionate appeal for stricter environmental standards.

In an interview outside the hearing, Sturgill noted his work with multiple groups, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. He said he once spent six months on parole after being arrested inside Rep. Hal Rogers' (R-Ky.) congressional office in an attempt to meet with his congressman.

"I just jumped right into the thick of it to challenge some of those environmental problems," Sturgill said of his decision to become an activist after retiring in 2009.

He appeared at the hearing today with a group of witnesses organized by the Massachusetts-based Civil Society Institute.

In the meantime, EPA officials expressed no concern that the hearing examiners, a mix of staff drawn from Denver, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., would have trouble remaining attentive throughout the day. Teams of three officials presided over each hearing room in four-hour shifts.

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.

Denver Post Blog: EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Posted By Lynn Bartels On July 29, 2014 @ 3:32 pm In 2014 - U.S. Senate election,Energy,Environment,National Politics,White House | No Comments

Coal miners and protesters gather for a rally near the state Capitol against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to cut power-plant carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding the proposal. (Photo by Hyoung Chang/The Denver Post)

With the EPA holding hearings in Denver over its proposed power plant rule, the campaigns for U.S. Senate contenders Mark Udall and Cory Gardner went to work as Coloradans on the left and the right held rallies.

From Gardner, a GOP congressman challenging Udall:

Udall's Energy Policy Hurts Middle Class Coloradans

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a hearing on the Obama Administration's latest regulations impacting coal-fired power plants — rules that Senator Udall embraced as a "good start." Cory Gardner denounced Senator Udall's anti-energy policies that would empower federal regulators, destroy jobs, and drain pocketbooks.

From Udall, a Democrat seeking a second Senate term:

Gardner's Climate Science Denial Puts Colorado At Risk

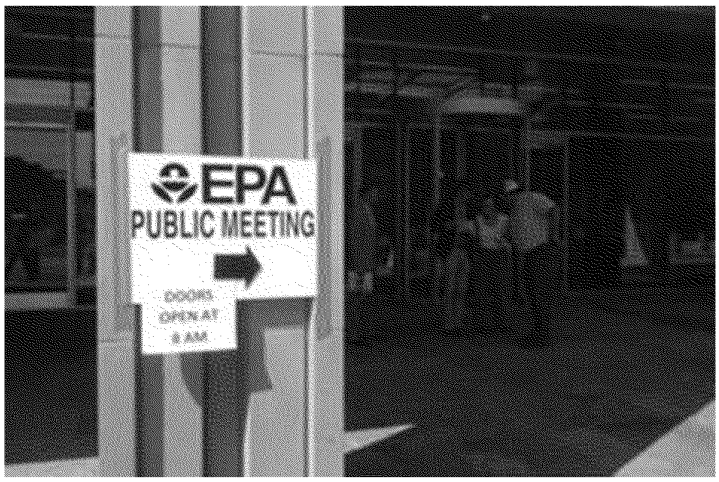
Congressman Cory Gardner says he's new, but his stubborn denial of climate science is backward and dangerous. As Colorado grapples with the effects of climate change on our water, our communities, mountain snowpack, and our farms and ranches, Gardner's radical refusal to accept the science behind climate change endangers our special way of life.

NextGen Climate sets up a mock power plant with an anti Congressman Cory Gardner message outside the Denver EPA office, where a hearing is being held on a proposed carbon pollution standard. (Photo by RJ Sangosti/The Denver Post)

Colorado boasts one of the nation's most competitive Senate races [1] and one where the battle over energy [2] is key.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a two-day hearing [3] in Denver to consider the impact of proposed federal rules aimed at cutting power-plant carbon dioxide emissions than some states.

Denver EPA hearing on carbon cuts draws big crowds, strong stands



View Photos

Caitlin Hendee | Denver Business Journal

The Environmental Protection Agency held public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday, where speakers voiced their support or opposition to the agency's plan to require coal plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

Caitlin Hendee

Digital Producer / Social Engagement Manager- *Denver Business Journal*

Email

Tuesday's opening of a two-day Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Denver on regulating carbon dioxide emissions drew warnings of pollution's health impacts from some who testified alongside predictions of job losses and rising energy costs from others.

Hundreds of people gathered in the two hearing rooms and additional video viewing rooms at EPA's Region 8 building at 1595 Wynkoop St. in LoDo for the first of two days of testimony on the rules, which particularly target emissions from coal-fired power plants.

One was retired Kentucky coal miner Stanley Sturgill. He said people are dying, literally dying,

for the EPA to help them, and the agency is not doing enough.

See Also

- Denver hosts EPA hearing on CO2 cuts
- Colorado already cutting CO2 ahead of EPA proposed rules
- What they're saying in Colorado about the EPA's proposed power-plant CO2 rules

"[CO2 pollution] really hurts me. It hurts my children, my grandchildren," Sturgill said, adding that he's developed black lung and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a result of living in a coal mining town.

Also on hand was Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid, who said coal "means kids go to school and get an education. It means people can afford a house."

Moffat county is the northwesternmost county in Colorado. Kinkaid, who said Moffat's entire economy is dependent on its coal power plants, called the EPA's plan a "formula for poverty" for himself and the families who live there.

The EPA is holding public hearings in Denver, Atlanta, Washington and Pittsburgh this week so people could voice their opinions about the agency's plan to slash CO2 emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. About 1,600 people are signed up to testify in the four cities.

The plan (details here) is the first time the government has tried to cut carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from existing power plants, considered the "single largest source" of carbon pollution in the nation, according to the EPA.

"This is just a mere lean in the right direction," Sturgill told the panel of three EPA officials.

State Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, said any cost of reducing CO2 emissions is low compared to the costs of climate change.

"We have to be very aggressive with these rules," Jones said. "That's the bottom line."

And while much of the morning testimony reflected such sentiments, some disagreed.

One was Michael Hutchenson, an engineer with Ameren Corp., is a holding company for Missouri utilities servicing over 2.4 million natural gas customers.

Hutchenson testified said the cost of reducing emissions will cost himself and the company he works for dearly by job loss and raised utility prices.

Hutchenson said Ameren already cuts CO2 emissions on its own, and said a 2035 deadline might be a bit more attainable.

Colorado groups on hand for the hearing, such as the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), voiced similar concerns.

“If enacted, EPA’s proposed rules would significantly squeeze the nation’s energy infrastructure, cause substantial reliability concerns and ensure higher electricity prices across the board,” said the CEA in a statement.

Outside of the hearing, environmental groups rallied to show their support of the EPA’s proposed plans.

“I’m in complete support because I’ve witnessed first hand that [climate change] is real and something we need to change,” said former Olympic alpine skier Kaylin Richardson.

Richardson testified Tuesday on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit that advocates against climate change.

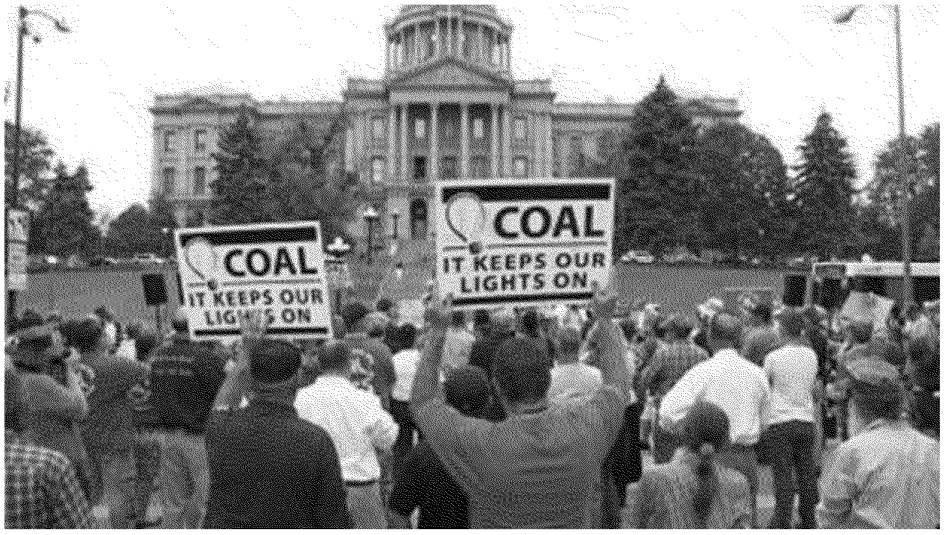
Several speakers related numerous examples of the costs of CO2 emissions, which many believe causes climate change. Melting icecaps, hurricanes, rising temperatures, as well as health issues like cancers and lung diseases were some examples recited.

“Climate change is real. We cannot afford the cost of doing nothing,” said Karen Hadden, executive director for Sustainable Energy & Economic Development Coalition, adding that she thinks the EPA should go even further and require that 30 percent of energy must come from renewable sources by 2050.

Testimony will continue all day Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Region 8 building.

Fox 31 Denver: Environmentalists flood EPA hearing on carbon rules in Denver

•



Employees from Colorado's coal industry joined Republicans at a rally protesting the Obama administration's proposed carbon emissions plan. The rally was organized by the group Americans For Prosperity.

DENVER — As two days of hearings on the Obama administration's proposal to curb carbon emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030, environmentalists and industry groups made their cases — in the hearing room and all across town.

While clean energy companies and mothers standing alongside firefighters pushed the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the strongest rule possible to address climate change and improve air quality, Republicans stood with representatives of Colorado's coal industry in the shadows of the state Capitol at a rally organized by Koch-backed Americans For Prosperity and called for the administration to drop a proposal they believe will cost jobs.

Meanwhile, inside a hearing room on the second floor of the gleaming new EPA headquarters at 16th and Wynkoop in Lower Downtown, hundreds of people, each allowed just five minutes, put their feelings on the record.

The heart of the matter: weighing the potential short-term economic costs with the likely long-term costs of inaction.

"It is far cheaper to act strongly now," said state Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, one of the first people to testify in support of the proposal Tuesday morning.

The proposal is an existential threat to the more than 600 coal power plants across the country.

Under the proposed rule, states will be given flexibility about how to achieve the pollution cuts. Instead of immediately shutting down coal plants, states could choose to reduce emissions by installing new wind and solar generation or energy-efficiency technology, and by starting or joining state and regional "cap and trade" programs, in which states agree to cap carbon

pollution and buy and sell permits to pollute.

Looking to combat fears about the economic impact on the industry, the Obama administration Tuesday released a study showing that failing to adequately reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change could cost the United States economy $150 billion a year

While many argued against the rules on the grounds they go too far — Moffat County Commissioner John Kincaid testified that the administration is waging a "war on coal" — others argued that they don't do enough.

"This rule is just a mere lean in the right direction. It's just not going to work for us," said Stanley Sturgell, a retired Kentucky coal miner with black lung disease and COPD who flew himself to Denver to testify. Your targets for reducing pollution by 2030 are way too low and do not do enough to reduce our risk from climate change.

"We're dying — literally dying — for you to help us."

The hearing itself was dominated by environmental advocates pushing the administration to take action.

Meanwhile, the industry made its opposition known at a noon rally in Lincoln Park across from the Capitol.

"Barack Obama these are real Americans and real American jobs," yelled Bob Beauprez, the GOP nominee for governor. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families, off our dignity of work!"

Many in Moffat County, where the Twenty Mile Coal plant is the heart of the local economy, also see the EPA rule as a matter of life and death — for the local economy.

"The coal mines are pretty much our entire economy," said Brandi Meek, a mother of two and the Moffat County GOP chair.

Mary Frontczak, an executive with Peabody Energy Americas, the company that operates the Twenty Mile plant, said that the EPA's plan would make a miniscule difference when it comes to climate change at far too high a cost to her industry and its employees.

"This proposal needs to be withdrawn and there's overwhelming support for that," Frontczak said. "We're going to do something that's not going to have any benefit but will hurt our own people in this country."

Denver EPA hearing fires debate over

costs of cutting carbon — or not

By Mark Jaffe
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 05:40:29 PM MDT | Updated: 7 min. ago

The federal proposal to cut coal-fired power plant carbon emissions will impact the nation's economy and witnesses at Denver hearing Tuesday sparred over just what it will mean.

"EPA is trying to shut down the coal industry without regard," said Arch Coal Inc. spokesman Greg Schaefer. The company employs about 1,800 people in Wyoming and about 320 in Western Colorado. an executive with Arch Coal Inc. in Wyoming. "I urge EPA to withdraw the proposal."

But wind and solar industries advocates, as well as representatives of small business and ranching, said there are economic benefits to cutting carbon emissions and replacing fossil fuels.

"A booming wind industry" is creating jobs in Iowa, said Katherine McCormick, Midwest energy policy analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

Iowa has 3,000 wind-related jobs and among the lowest energy costs in the country, which helped lure Google to locate a data center in Council Bluffs, McCormick said.

In Colorado, the wind industry has invested $4.3 billion, said Justin Wilson, executive director of the non-profit Western Clean Energy Campaign,

More than 230 people — from a half dozen states west of the Mississippi River — were slated to testify during Tuesday's 12-hour-long session.

The hearing is the only one of four sessions that is being held west of Pittsburgh. It continues Wednesday.

While witnesses testified one-after-the-other, rallies for and against the proposal were held around town.

The EPA rule aims to cut carbon dioxide emission, a gas linked to climate change, by an average 30 percent over 2012 levels by 2030.

The targets are set state by state. Colorado has a 35 percent goal.

As the result of its efficiency and renewable energy programs and a plan by Xcel Energy to close aging coal plants, the state is in a good position to meet its goal, says a study by Boulder-based Western Resource Advocates.

Some opponents of the rule question whether climate change is real — despite extensive

scientific studies documenting the phenomenon — or how severe its impacts will be.

There was little of that testimony, but much about the economic impact of the proposed rule and climate change.

The risk of extreme weather — like Colorado's 2013 flood or Hurricane Sandy in 2012 — pose a special risk to small businesses, said Tim Gaudette, outreach manager for Small Business Majority, a San Francisco-based business advocacy group.

"Twenty-five percent of small businesses do not reopen after a big event," Gaudette said.

Property damage, loss of employees and revenue often make it difficult to bounce back and most small businesses have only a single location, Gaudette said.

Still, the broader costs to the economy will be expensive said Jonathan Downing, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association.

The rules would "create a de facto ban on old coal plants," Downing said, citing a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that calculated the annual cost of the rule to the economy at $51 billion.

"Coal is America's most abundant, reliable and cheapest energy source," Downing said.

Other witnesses cited another economic study — "Risky Business" — which estimated that coastal states alone face $35 billion in annual costs due to higher sea levels and storm surges. The study was backed by a bipartisan group that includes former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

"Outdated polices and a failure of government action hold us back," Jenn Vervier, director of strategy and sustainability for Fort Collins-based New Belgium Brewing.

Vervier said that New Belgium has been abel to grow to a staff 562, even as it followed sustainable energy policies.

"Making world-class beer, being honorable and making a profit go hand in hand," Vervier said.

Mark Fix, a Miles City, Montana, rancher, told tales of cleaning fields after tornadoes and rescuing heifers from flood waters.

Any steps to moderate the impacts of climate change are welcome, he said.

"We in agriculture have to deal with weather every day," Fix said. "It can make us or break us."

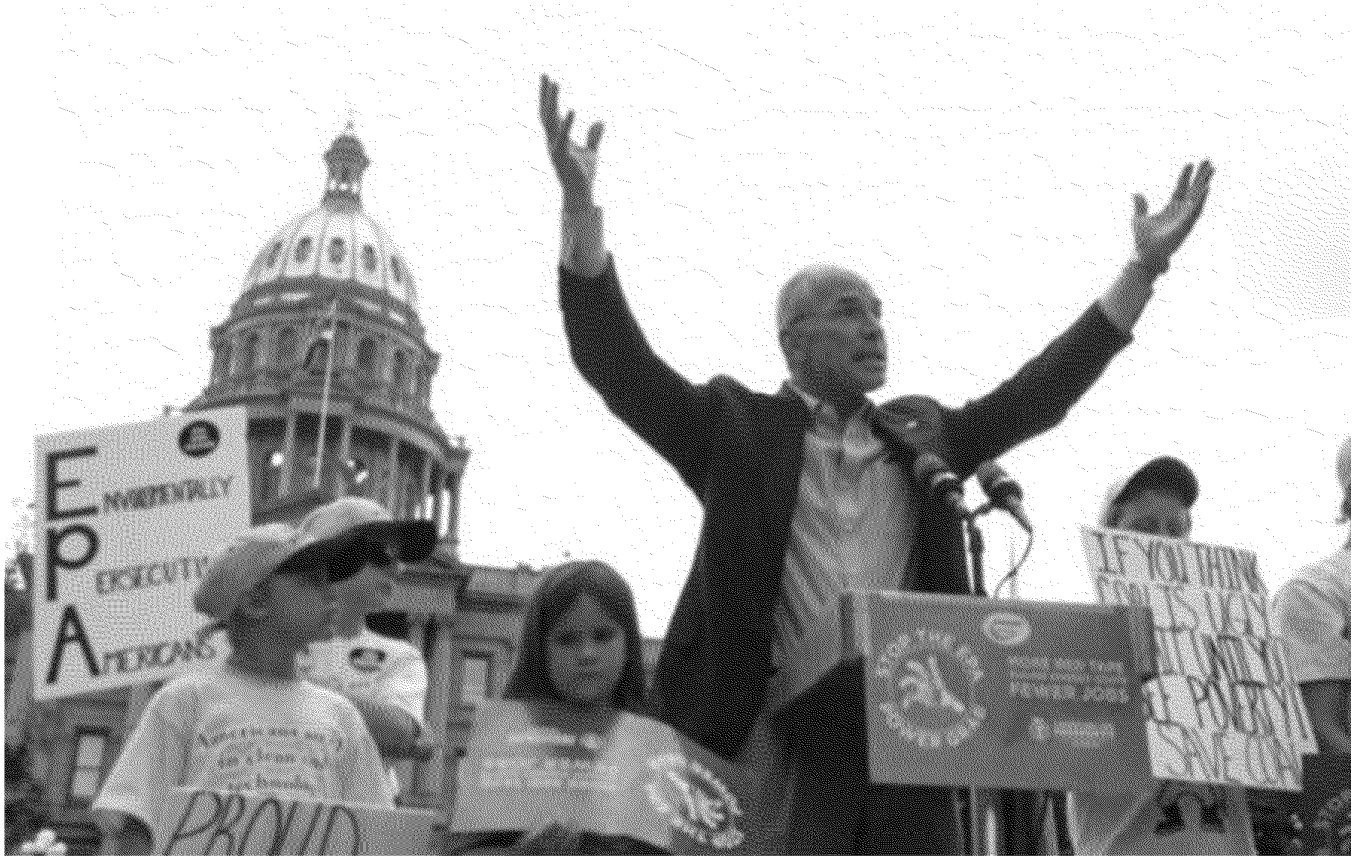
Colorado Independent: Bob Beauprez headlines pro-coal rally

EPA carbon-cutting draw criticism from coal miners, industry and Republican gubernatorial candidate

http://www.coloradoindependent.com/148425/bob-beauprez-headlines-pro-coal-rally

Tessa Cheek

July 29, 2014 Elections 2014 No Comments



DENVER — Republican gubernatorial candidate and former Congressman Bob Beauprez joined a rally of more than 100 coal industry advocates and employees before the state capital today to protest the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cuts to emissions from coal-burning power plants. As those hearings ran in downtown Denver, Beauprez stood with the sign-bearing children of coal miners to say that he was grateful for coal and that the regulations unfairly punish the largely working class families and communities who are sustained by that industry.

"It's jobs, it's real people. This is their livelihood at risk here," Beauprez told *The Colorado Independent.* "These rules would turn a town like Craig, a town like Delta into ghost towns."

The Colorado Mining Association reported that Colorado coal mines employed just over 2,000 people in 2013. But Beauprez emphasized that it's not just those who are directly employed by

the industry who will be impacted by a decrease in coal production and use as a result of the EPA's new rules. He recalled the dwindling of the oil and gas industry in Mesa County and a guitar teacher he met there who was nearly out of business after losing 30 students when their parents, out of work, could no longer afford lessons.

"We've have never used coal cleaner, safer and more efficiently than we do right now," said Beauprez to loud cheers from the crowd.

On the other side of town, where they rallied in favor of the EPA's new rules, conservationists were equally loud in critiquing Beauprez's speech today. Conservation Colorado's Executive Director Pete Maysmith issued a release just as Beauprez took the stage:

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century dirt fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology."

Hearings on the EPA's proposed rules to reduce emissions from coal-burning power plants nationwide, will continue tomorrow in Denver — the only site of such a hearing in the West. Keep an eye out tomorrow for *The Colorado Independent's* multimedia feature on the hearings.

Denver Post: Denver protests over proposed EPA power-plant rules stoked by politics

By Joey Bunch and Thad Moore
The Denver Post

Posted: 07/29/2014 04:17:53 PM MDT8 Comments | Updated: 61 min. ago

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26238611/denver-protests-over-proposed-epa-power-plant-rules

Coalminers and protesters gather for the rally against the Environmental Protection Agency's rule at Lincoln Park. The EPA is holding a public hearing in Denver regarding its proposed rule for carbon emissions from existing power plants. (Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post)

- Jul 29:
- Clean-air rules assailed as too much, too little
- Denver EPA hearing fires debate over costs of cutting carbon — or not
- EPA hearing in Denver fuels rallies, Mark Udall's and Cory Gardner's Senate campaigns

Hundreds of people, many of them coal miners and power company employees, rallied near the Colorado Capitol Tuesday against proposed rules to cut power-plant emissions, saying the regulations would kill coal jobs and raise power bills.

"This is about protecting our American way of life and our life in Colorado," Stuart Sanderson, president of the Colorado Mining Association, told the fired-up crowd protesting during the two-day EPA hearing in Denver.

Three other hearings on the proposed rules — which would force power plants to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide by 2030 — will be held. The Denver hearing is the only one scheduled for a location west of the Mississippi River.

Opponents to the rules say they will kill jobs and jack up consumers' electricity bills. Supporters say clean air and more jobs will be lost if emissions from coal-fired plants exacerbate climate change and hurts Colorado's winter tourism industry.

At Denver's Commons Park, Moms Clean Air Force and CO Moms Know Best, which favor the regulations, gathered for a "play-in" with children to highlight the state's outdoors and the potential health threats power-plant emissions pose. Children played, painted and picketed nearby.

Regulation supporters came from Santa Fe, N.M., San Francisco, Pueblo, Grand Junction and elsewhere.

Keira Hatton of Pueblo said she has a genetic lung condition that makes her sensitive to pollutants, and on days when she sees smog on the horizon she thinks about going home. She knows the EPA's regulations wouldn't clean the air overnight, but she worries for her daughter

and thinks it's a worthwhile effort.

"Any step in the right direction is the right way," she said.

Jamie Travis, "head mom" of Colorado Moms Knows Best, said about one-third of children's hospitalizations in Colorado are asthma-related. The Sierra Club echoed her concern by inflating a giant inhaler across Wynkoop Street from the EPA's office.

Travis said that while her family, like others, is concerned about paying higher power bills in the short term, it's better than paying higher health care costs.

"The health and well-being of our children now and throughout their lives must be the top priority in setting new carbon emission limits on power plants," said John Friedrich, who works for Climate Parents. "We're here to say with our kids in mind, we can't afford not to."

John Lauer, who was a hotshot firefighter in Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, said he's seen the effects of climate change firsthand: Fires in the West have grown more explosive and spread faster, he said.

The experience led him to support the EPA's proposal, he said at a rally on Millennium Bridge, adding that he thinks the government should support coal workers transition into new work.

"There's a remarkable opportunity for innovation and employment in a new, low-carbon economy," Lauer said. "In the West I can envision two futures: one full of smoke and the other full of innovation."

The hearings created a lot of political hot air. At the rally opposing the regulations, people carried signs that stated "Save America, Impeach Obama,"

"Barack Obama, these are real Americans, and real American jobs," said Republican gubernatorial nominee Bob Beauprez at the Veterans Memorial at the foot of the state Capitol. "Keep your hands off our jobs, off our families and off our dignity of work."

Beauprez said he supports development of renewable energy, but "if we're really going to be about all-of-the-above, why do we take the biggest part of all-of-the-above right off the table," he said of coal.

Beauprez added, "We have never used coal cleaner, safer, more efficiently than we do right now. That isn't something to punish. It's something to celebrate."

The rally was put on by a coalition of 28 businesses and groups, led by mining associations in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Pete Maysmith, executive director of Conservation Colorado, called the event "a dirty energy rally" and singled out Beauprez.

"While Bob Beauprez defends 19th century, dirty fossil fuels of old, Colorado has positioned itself as a leader in clean wind and solar renewable energy industry and technology," he stated, accusing Beauprez of "failed policies and leadership of days long gone past."

Dustin Zvonek, Colorado state director of Americans for Prosperity, said the EPA's rules were about ideology, common sense.

"And in the process is threatening to destroy tens of thousands of jobs and drive up the cost of energy," he said in a statement.

The events were political long before Tuesday.

U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner issued a statement Tuesday morning slamming his opponent in Colorado's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Mark Udall, who supported the proposed emissions measures.

"Sen. Udall's out-of-touch record on energy has Coloradans understandably concerned about the economic future of our state," Gardner stated. "Coloradans would suffer under Senator Udall's federal ploy to levy new taxes and crush the working and middle classes with higher electricity prices."

The National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee has been targeting Udall with robocalls in Colorado since early June, saying the measures would jack up electricity bills for consumers. Udall's called the Obama administration's rules "a good start."

His campaign called Gardner a science-denier Tuesday and that his views are "backward and dangerous."

"Like Mark, Coloradans support finding the right balance between energy development and protecting our clean air and water," Udall campaign spokeswoman Kristin Lynch said. "Rather than work to protect our environment and grow our economy, Congressman Gardner would give polluters free rein to contaminate the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Joey Bunch: 303-954-1174, jbunch@denverpost.com or twitter.com/joeybunch

To: Stenhouse, Jeb[Stenhouse.Jeb@epa.gov]; Haeuber, Richard[Haeuber.Richard@epa.gov]; Wilson, Erika[Wilson.Erika@epa.gov]; Risley, David[Risley.David@epa.gov]
From: Harvey, Reid
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 3:35:25 PM
Subject: Fw: our 111d testimony
111d-NACAA_Testimony_for_EPA_Hearing_FinalVersion_072814.docx

From: McCabe, Janet <McCabe.Janet@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Tsirigotis, Peter; Culligan, Kevin; Page, Steve; Koerber, Mike; Dunham, Sarah; Harvey, Reid; Goffman, Joseph; Powers, Tom; Niebling, William
Subject: FW: our 111d testimony

fyi

From: Bill Becker [mailto:bbecker@4cleanair.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:21 AM
To: McCabe, Janet
Cc: Goffman, Joseph
Subject: our 111d testimony

Janet—Please distribute, as appropriate. Bill

S. William Becker

Executive Director

National Association of Clean Air Agencies

444 North Capitol St., NW

Washington, DC 20001

(t) 202-624-7864

(c) 301-806-6111

www.4cleanair.org

To: Harvey, Reid[Harvey.Reid@epa.gov]; Risley, David[Risley.David@epa.gov]; Haeuber, Richard[Haeuber.Richard@epa.gov]; Stenhouse, Jeb[Stenhouse.Jeb@epa.gov]
From: Wilson, Erika
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 4:21:34 PM
Subject: Fw: Summary of hearings on Twitter, 10-11 am

If you're interested...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Jones, Enesta; Wilson, Erika
Subject: FW: Summary of hearings on Twitter, 10-11 am

fyi

From: Levy, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:36 AM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Smith, Roxanne; Purchia, Liz; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; McMichael, Nate; Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Dennis, Allison; Lincoln, Larry; Cashin, Mary; schafer, joan; Seneca, Roy; White, Terri-A; graves, john
Cc: Orquina, Jessica; Luo, Zeya; Dwyer, Madeleine
Subject: Summary of hearings on Twitter, 10-11 am

Still no complains about the hearings themselves.

We replied three times this hour:

- Someone asked whether we were livestreaming the hearings: we explained that C-SPAN is recording the DC hearing

- Someone asked several questions about the proposal and made one statement: we responded with how to send us comments in writing because we can't accept them via Twitter

- Someone asked whether the ice cream truck was gasoline-powered: we explained that we're not involved in the ice cream giveaway

Other notes:

•□□□□□□□□ A lot more positive comments than negative

•□□□□□□□□ Live tweets from sierra club and NRDC Action Fund

•□□□□□□□□ A lot of comments about MA Senator Markey

•□□□□□□□□ Sierra club has a giant inhaler in Denver!
(https://twitter.com/SierraClubLive/status/494109821352693760)

•□□□□□□□□ Lots of tweets to and from @EDF_CA and @LCVoters and @SierraClubLive

•□□□□□□□□ Use of #ActOnClimate

•□□□□□□□□ The @janearther account has sent us 8 tweets in the hour, mostly just asking negative questions about the CPP (this is who we asked to send us comments in writing)

Jeffrey Levy
Director of Web Communications
Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
levy.jeffrey@epa.gov
202-564-9727 (cell for emergencies: 202-309-9445)

EPA's blog: http://blog.epa.gov/blog | Twitter: http://twitter.com/epa | Facebook: http://facebook.com/epa

To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M[Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]; Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Cc: egan, patrick[egan.patrick@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:00:44 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose. I just learned that the hearings in Pittsburgh will not move. We still will hold them at the Federal building. I hope you still can meet with Alison and Pat on Wednesday afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM
To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Davis, Alison [mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose,

Would you be available to meet at 230 on the 30th? Pat Egan from our Philadelphia office and I will both be there by then and could come by. Let me know if that time doesn't work, and we'll figure something else out.

Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

919-624-0872 (mobile)

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

We will have enough EPA staff on site to operate an elevator.

I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

Thanks very much Jose.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan,

I just spoke to GSA about the elevator situation. They are willing to allow one elevator dedicated to the hearings; however, assigned personnel must operate the equipment. Now, I would recommend that the operator be a security guard to control the flow of personnel to and from the hearing rooms. This of course comes with funding issues that we can discuss if you would like. If EPA is not willing to cost this additional service and you still want to use the elevator then EPA personnel would have to operate the equipment. GSA will be providing operational instructions prior to it if chosen that route.

When it comes to the registration table, we can walk the area next week and see where would be the most appropriate area for them to be placed at. I would not authorized placing it at the front/main entrance since the security check point is located on that location. The space is needed for visitor screening and access only. I do have few spots that you can use keeping in mind the clearance of emergency/fire exits.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose –

I hope your family's move to Pittsburgh went smoothly. I wanted to touch base with you on a couple more questions about the hearings next Thursday and Friday.

I understand that the 2 rooms we will hold the hearings in will be on the 13th and the 15th floors. Could we set up a registration table somewhere on the entry floor just past security so we could send people from there to the correct rooms?

We've been brainstorming ideas to help people get efficiently around. I'm not sure what the elevator situation is like but is there any possibility that we could dedicate an elevator or 2 to this hearing. One that went to the 13th floor and another that went to the 15th floor would be fantastic.

Thanks for letting me know - jan

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ..I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

José M. Díaz
Area Commander
Federal Protective Service
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

412.395.4805 Office
717.275.5406 Blackberry

jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 01:43 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

Because of high interest in this topic, we have added a second hearing day so that we will be there July 31st and August 1st.We are getting a number of questions about the REAL Id Act. I am relieved to know you won't be implementing those requirements until the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did get a question today that I'd like to check with you about – will a NEXUS pass be accepted as appropriate ID? My guess was yes, but, I'm not expert. Could you, or an appropriate contact on your staff let me know.

Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day

outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

This is the last word so far from our HQ. "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014". So you should be OK. We'll let you know if we get more. If we get something more, Jose will likely let you know.

Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Chief Tirado/DC Gonzalez

Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

Once we get guidance on the subject,t we'll be able to come up with a plan of action if needed.

Thanks

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

This message (including any attachments) may contain confidential and or law enforcement sensitive (LES) information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and should be considered for official use only. (FOUO) DHS 11042.1 (03/05)

From: Gonzalez, Kenneth L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Miller, Harold L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny

Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

Thanks

Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service
215.521.2132

From: Miller, Harold L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Ken, Johnny or anyone,

I don't have information on the startup on the Real ID Act enforcement and if FPS is going to be enforcing it? I heard through non-official means it was going to be delayed? EPA has a concern it may interfere with a public forum it's holding here in the Federal Building 7/31/14, which is 10 days after the current planned start date. EPA is also concerned that since the state of Kentucky apparently isn't making Fed Gov't approved ID, this could be a larger issue for them since they estimate many from Kentucky will appear at the forum.

If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Hal

Harold L. Miller II

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Hal – Thanks for all of your help on this issue. I'm just checking back in with you – I haven't heard anything further on this request. - jan

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL

ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Terry, Sara
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:14:23 PM
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

We have been able to work in everyone who came unregistered. Most of those have been enviros.

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:55 AM
To: Terry, Sara
Subject: FW: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Hull, George; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Jones, Enesta
Subject: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

First story I've seen really critiquing the hearings themselves, focused on not allowing everyone who wants to speak to speak, Federal ID requirements and the size of the hearing rooms. They're making the assumption that we are preventing people against the rule from speaking. But it was a first come first serve process correct?

It does include our responses about working to accommodate as many speakers as possible and to ensure Federal ID doesn't stop people from participating.

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

1:19 PM 07/29/2014

Michael Bastasch

The Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its week of field hearings on its Clean Power Plan. Thousands have signed up to speak, but others got notices from the EPA saying they would not get a time slot to testify before agency officials.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The plan has been backed by environmental groups and Democrats, but opposed by businesses and Republicans who say it will raise energy costs and force the shutdown of coal plants.

To get feedback on the rule, the agency announced four public field hearings across the country this week. The hearings will take place at federal buildings in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

Around 1,600 people have signed up to speak, but not everyone was allowed to have time to testify before agency officials. Some groups critical of the EPA's agenda were not able to secure speaking slots despite signing up early.

Matthew Kandrach was surprised to find an email from the EPA eight days after he submitted a request for a time slot to speak. Kandrach is vice president at the free-market group the 60 Plus Association, which is opposed to the EPA's CPP because it would raise power prices for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

"This is literally a life or death situation for seniors when they have to choose between food, medication and energy," Kandrach told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Kandrach signed up for on July 9 for his group to speak at hearings in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. After signing up for the hearing, he got no confirmation email, but was simply directed to a landing page which thanked him for his submission. With no confirmation email sent, the 60 Plus Association believed they had secured a time to speak.

But eight days later, Kandrach got a confusing email (which went into his spam folder) from an EPA official saying no time slots were left open to speak at the hearing in Atlanta. The EPA official said they would be able to attend the Atlanta hearing and could even request to have speaking time, but there was no guarantee such a request would be granted.

“Once you sign up why wouldn’t you get an instant response?” Kandrach asked TheDCNF. “Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up.”

“Why didn’t they do even more sign-ups if they were too overwhelmed?” Kandrach added.

The free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute encountered a similar problem. It too signed up to speak on the record at the hearing in Washington, D.C., only to receive an email about two weeks later saying it would not get a speaking time slot.

“We signed up very shortly after we had the ability to do so,” CEI senior fellow William Yeatman told TheDCNF. “Ten to thirteen days later, we were told all the time slots were full and they could not accommodate us.”

“I’m very disappointed,” Yeatman added. “I thought we signed up early enough to get a spot.”

TheDCNF was also told by sources that the National Black Chamber of Commerce was not able to secure a speaking slot for at least one of the EPA hearings, but the group did not immediately respond to our request for comment. NBCC has warned that EPA’s carbon emissions cuts would raise prices, disproportionately harm minority businesses and communities.

“For low-income Americans, too many of whom are African-American, this rule could also be extremely harmful,” NBCC Harry Ashford wrote in the Hill newspaper. “With energy costs rising at a pace greater than the average family income, families, especially low-income families, are shouldering an enormous burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing.”

“Many groups and individuals who hoped to provide their input at this week’s public hearings were not even able to secure a speaking slot, and the high demand for input, and growing chorus of opposition, reinforces the need to expand the public comment period and hold more hearings across the country, especially in areas most affected by these overreaching regulations,” said Laura Sheehan, spokeswoman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

“Contrary to what you have heard, we’re working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak,” an EPA spokesman told TheDCNF. “We expect to hear from about 1,600 people over the course of the week.”

The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states “must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held.” Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

“This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents’) attendance now virtually impossible,” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren't likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

Even environmentalist were shocked by the agency's stringent ID requirements. But the EPA has said it would work to make sure everyone who wanted to see the hearing was able to.

"We were pretty taken aback by it," Alex DeSha, an organizer for the Sierra Club in eastern Kentucky, told E&E News. "A lot of people don't know that this is even a thing."

"It's 200 bucks to get a passport expedited," DeSha added. "It's just one more step that will disenfranchise people from engaging in the public process."

The coal industry and others have also criticized the EPA for the location of the public hearings — in space-restricted locations far away from coal country.

"It seems like there's been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage," Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

Read more: http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sgZ4SPT

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Terry, Sara
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 8:43:59 PM
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

How's Atlanta?

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Terry, Sara
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

Excellent. I am not surprised.

Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Office: 919-541-7587
Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Terry, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:14:23 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

We have been able to work in everyone who came unregistered. Most of those have been enviros.

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:55 AM
To: Terry, Sara
Subject: FW: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

From: Purchia, Liz

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Hull, George; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Jones, Enesta
Subject: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

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It does include our responses about working to accommodate as many speakers as possible and to ensure Federal ID doesn't stop people from participating.

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"Once you sign up why wouldn't you get an instant response?" Kandrach asked TheDCNF. "Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up."

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burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing."

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The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

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The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states "must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held." Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

"This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents') attendance now virtually impossible," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren't likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

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"It seems like there's been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage," Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

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Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 9:06:24 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Yes. That's what we did here.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Pat and I are talking – we think logistics folks should arrive by 730.

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:01 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Davis, Alison
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose. I just learned that the hearings in Pittsburgh will not move. We still will hold them at the Federal building. I hope you still can meet with Alison and Pat on Wednesday afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM

To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Cc: egan, patrick

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Davis, Alison [mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose,

Would you be available to meet at 230 on the 30th? Pat Egan from our Philadelphia office and I will both be there by then and could come by. Let me know if that time doesn't work, and we'll figure something else out.

Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

919-624-0872 (mobile)

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

We will have enough EPA staff on site to operate an elevator.

I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

Thanks very much Jose.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan,

I just spoke to GSA about the elevator situation. They are willing to allow one elevator dedicated to the hearings; however, assigned personnel must operate the equipment. Now, I would recommend that the operator be a security guard to control the flow of personnel to and from the hearing rooms. This of course comes with funding issues that we can discuss if you would like. If EPA is not willing to cost this additional service and you still want to use the elevator then EPA personnel would have to operate the equipment. GSA will be providing operational instructions prior to it if chosen that route.

When it comes to the registration table, we can walk the area next week and see where would be the most appropriate area for them to be placed at. I would not authorized placing it at the front/main entrance since the security check point is located on that location. The space is needed for visitor screening and access only. I do have few spots that you can use keeping in mind the clearance of emergency/fire exits.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose –

I hope your family's move to Pittsburgh went smoothly. I wanted to touch base with you on a couple more questions about the hearings next Thursday and Friday.

I understand that the 2 rooms we will hold the hearings in will be on the 13th and the 15th floors. Could we set up a registration table somewhere on the entry floor just past security so we could send people from there to the correct rooms?

We've been brainstorming ideas to help people get efficiently around. I'm not sure what the elevator situation is like but is there any possibility that we could dedicate an elevator or 2 to this hearing. One that went to the 13th floor and another that went to the 15th floor would be fantastic.

Thanks for letting me know - jan

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ..I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM

To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

José M. Díaz
Area Commander
Federal Protective Service
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

412.395.4805 Office
717.275.5406 Blackberry

jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 01:43 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

Because of high interest in this topic, we have added a second hearing day so that we will be there July 31st and August 1st.We are getting a number of questions about the REAL Id Act. I am relieved to know you won't be implementing those requirements until the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did get a question today that I'd like to check with you about – will a NEXUS pass be accepted as appropriate ID? My guess was yes, but, I'm not expert. Could you, or an appropriate contact on your staff let me know.

Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

This is the last word so far from our HQ. "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014". So you should be OK. We'll let you know if we get more. If we get something more, Jose will likely let you know.

Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Chief Tirado/DC Gonzalez

Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

Once we get guidance on the subject,t we'll be able to come up with a plan of action if needed.

Thanks

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Gonzalez, Kenneth L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Miller, Harold L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

Thanks

Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service

215.521.2132

From: Miller, Harold L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Ken, Johnny or anyone,

I don't have information on the startup on the Real ID Act enforcement and if FPS is going to be enforcing it? I heard through non-official means it was going to be delayed? EPA has a concern it may interfere with a public forum it's holding here in the Federal Building 7/31/14, which is 10 days after the current planned start date. EPA is also concerned that since the state of Kentucky apparently isn't making Fed Gov't approved ID, this could be a larger issue for them since they estimate many from Kentucky will appear at the forum.

If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Hal

Harold L. Miller II

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Hal – Thanks for all of your help on this issue. I'm just checking back in with you – I haven't heard anything further on this request. - jan

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:03:20 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Very well. We've been busy.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:56 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

How are things going there? I talked to Jenny, and she said things have been going really well in Denver.

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Yes. That's what we did here.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:03 PM

To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Pat and I are talking – we think logistics folks should arrive by 730.

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:01 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Davis, Alison
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose. I just learned that the hearings in Pittsburgh will not move. We still will hold them at the Federal building. I hope you still can meet with Alison and Pat on Wednesday afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM

To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Cc: egan, patrick

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Davis, Alison [mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose,

Would you be available to meet at 230 on the 30th? Pat Egan from our Philadelphia office and I will both be there by then and could come by. Let me know if that time doesn't work, and we'll figure something else out.

Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

919-624-0872 (mobile)

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

We will have enough EPA staff on site to operate an elevator.

I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

Thanks very much Jose.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan,

I just spoke to GSA about the elevator situation. They are willing to allow one elevator dedicated to the hearings; however, assigned personnel must operate the equipment. Now, I would recommend that the operator be a security guard to control the flow of personnel to and from the hearing rooms. This of course comes with funding issues that we can discuss if you would like. If EPA is not willing to cost this additional service and you still want to use the elevator then EPA personnel would have to operate the equipment. GSA will be providing operational instructions prior to it if chosen that route.

When it comes to the registration table, we can walk the area next week and see where would be the most appropriate area for them to be placed at. I would not authorized placing it at the front/main entrance since the security check point is located on that location. The space is needed for visitor screening and access only. I do have few spots that you can use keeping in mind the clearance of emergency/fire exits.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose –

I hope your family's move to Pittsburgh went smoothly. I wanted to touch base with you on a couple more questions about the hearings next Thursday and Friday.

I understand that the 2 rooms we will hold the hearings in will be on the 13th and the 15th floors. Could we set up a registration table somewhere on the entry floor just past security so we could send people from there to the correct rooms?

We've been brainstorming ideas to help people get efficiently around. I'm not sure what the elevator situation is like but is there any possibility that we could dedicate an elevator or 2 to this hearing. One that went to the 13th floor and another that went to the 15th floor would be fantastic.

Thanks for letting me know - jan

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy .I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

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Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 01:43 PM
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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

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Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

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Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

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Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

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Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

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Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service
215.521.2132

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If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

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412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
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To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

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knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:06:55 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Just catching our breath. I think after dinner will be quiet a lost of folks left on buses at 4 or 5

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:56 PM
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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access

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Yes. That's what we did here.

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From: Davis, Alison

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To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

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To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Cc: egan, patrick

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

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To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

We will have enough EPA staff on site to operate an elevator.

I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

Thanks very much Jose.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan -

public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan,

I just spoke to GSA about the elevator situation. They are willing to allow one elevator dedicated to the hearings; however, assigned personnel must operate the equipment. Now, I would recommend that the operator be a security guard to control the flow of personnel to and from the hearing rooms. This of course comes with funding issues that we can discuss if you would like. If EPA is not willing to cost this additional service and you still want to use the elevator then EPA personnel would have to operate the equipment. GSA will be providing operational instructions prior to it if chosen that route.

When it comes to the registration table, we can walk the area next week and see where would be the most appropriate area for them to be placed at. I would not authorized placing it at the front/main entrance since the security check point is located on that location. The space is needed for visitor screening and access only. I do have few spots that you can use keeping in mind the clearance of emergency/fire exits.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose –

I hope your family's move to Pittsburgh went smoothly. I wanted to touch base with you on a couple more questions about the hearings next Thursday and Friday.

I understand that the 2 rooms we will hold the hearings in will be on the 13th and the 15th floors. Could we set up a registration table somewhere on the entry floor just past security so we could send people from there to the correct rooms?

We've been brainstorming ideas to help people get efficiently around. I'm not sure what the elevator situation is like but is there any possibility that we could dedicate an elevator or 2 to this hearing. One that went to the 13th floor and another that went to the 15th floor would be fantastic.

Thanks for letting me know - jan

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jan

I'm available the rest of the afternoon… Please call, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ..I'll be at this number the rest of the day.

Jose

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose

Hope you had a nice weekend. I'm just checking back in with you on the NEXUS pass. I'd like to give you a call about this public hearing coming up in 2-weeks. Is there a time that would work best for you?

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M [mailto:Jose.M.Diaz-Ortiz@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hello Jan

Let me look into it and I'll get back to you on Monday. I'll verify the DHS guidance to make sure we are doing the right thing.

Have a good weekend

José M. Díaz
Area Commander
Federal Protective Service
National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

412.395.4805 Office
717.275.5406 Blackberry

jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov

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Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose – I have been communication with Harold Miller in preparation for public hearings the EPA will be holding at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh at the end of the month. He told me he would be retiring and directed me to you as a future contact.

Because of high interest in this topic, we have added a second hearing day so that we will be there July 31st and August 1st.We are getting a number of questions about the REAL Id Act. I am relieved to know you won't be implementing those requirements until the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did get a question today that I'd like to check with you about – will a NEXUS pass be accepted as appropriate ID? My guess was yes, but, I'm not expert. Could you, or an appropriate contact on your staff let me know.

Also – you should know that we have over 200 people registered to speak each day at these hearings. There likely will be additional people in attendance just to listen including press. We also understand that the United Mine Workers Union intends to have a rally on the first day outside of the building.

From: Miller, Harold L [mailto:Harold.L.Miller@hq.dhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:29 AM
To: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

This is the last word so far from our HQ. "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014". So you should be OK. We'll let you know if we get more. If we get something more, Jose will likely let you know.

Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Chief Tirado/DC Gonzalez

Can we get more guidance on the Real ID Act from HQ's? I understand that per Kris Cline e-mail to all the ADFO's on May 15, he stated that "we are not implementing REAL ID until October 1, 2014" he also mentioned that FPS will be providing more guidance on the subject. If this is the case enforcing the REAL ID during this hearing will not be an issue.

Once we get guidance on the subject,t we'll be able to come up with a plan of action if needed.

Thanks

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

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Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Miller, Harold L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: 'Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov'
Subject: Re: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

All,

Please send your responses to Jose, he is handling Operational concerns for the area.

Thanks

Ken

Kenneth Gonzalez
District Commander
Federal Protective Service
215.521.2132

From: Miller, Harold L
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 07:22 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Gonzalez, Kenneth L; Miller, Chad W; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Tufts, Kelley D; Ryan, Edward A; Kunkle, Jesse A; Tirado, Johnny
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Ken, Johnny or anyone,

I don't have information on the startup on the Real ID Act enforcement and if FPS is going to be enforcing it? I heard through non-official means it was going to be delayed? EPA has a concern it may interfere with a public forum it's holding here in the Federal Building 7/31/14, which is 10 days after the current planned start date. EPA is also concerned that since the state of Kentucky apparently isn't making Fed Gov't approved ID, this could be a larger issue for them since they estimate many from Kentucky will appear at the forum.

If anyone out there has further information about this please contact Jan at EPA as well as all of us out here regarding the decision. Any help is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Hal

Harold L. Miller II

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

412-589-1598 blackberry, (Office) 412-395-6342

email: harold.l.miller@dhs.gov

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [mailto:Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Miller, Harold L
Subject: RE: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Hal – Thanks for all of your help on this issue. I'm just checking back in with you – I haven't heard anything further on this request. - jan

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 10:09:12 PM
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Not sure where she is. Can I help?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:05 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access

Good! Here's a line about Jenny from E&E news –

Three hours into the first session of the day, the audience in one hearing room had dwindled significantly from its crowd of more than 60 in the early morning, but the hearing's lead examiner, EPA Director of Policy Analysis and Communications Jennifer Noonan remained engaged, querying witnesses for additional technical information and details about their testimony.

The full story is here:

http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2014/07/29/stories/1060003724

Would you flag for Jackie that she has an email from me – I'm trying to answer a question for the WVa secretary of state's office today.

Thanks!

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 6:03 PM
To: Davis, Alison

Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Very well. We've been busy.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:56 PM

To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

How are things going there? I talked to Jenny, and she said things have been going really well in Denver.

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Yes. That's what we did here.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Davis, Alison

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:03 PM

To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Pat and I are talking – we think logistics folks should arrive by 730.

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:01 PM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M; Davis, Alison
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: Re: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Jose. I just learned that the hearings in Pittsburgh will not move. We still will hold them at the Federal building. I hope you still can meet with Alison and Pat on Wednesday afternoon.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:00 PM

To: Davis, Alison; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan

Cc: egan, patrick

Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Alison

I will be traveling back from Philadelphia that day and I scheduled a meeting with our support

personnel at 1400…can 1530 be a good time?. If not, I can refer you to my facility inspector to meet on an earlier time…let me know.

José M. Díaz | Area Commander

Federal Protective Service

National Protection and Programs Directorate | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Keystone Area | Region 3

1000 Liberty Ave. Suite 116, Pittsburgh PA 15222

E-Mail: jose.m.diaz-ortiz@hq.dhs.gov | **Tel**. 412-395-4805 (O) | 717-275-5406 (C) | 877-437-7411 (FPS MegaCenter 24/7)

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From: Davis, Alison [mailto:Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: egan, patrick
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Hi Jose,

Would you be available to meet at 230 on the 30th? Pat Egan from our Philadelphia office and I will both be there by then and could come by. Let me know if that time doesn't work, and we'll figure something else out.

Thanks so much.

- Alison Davis

Alison Davis

Sr. Advisor for Public Affairs

U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

919-541-7587 (desk)

919-624-0872 (mobile)

From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Diaz-Ortiz, Jose M
Cc: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: July 31st and August 1st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

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I'll ask Alison Davis to work with you on July 30th in the afternoon to decide where to place the registration table. I won't arrive until quite late that evening but she should be there in plenty of time to work that out.

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Have a good weekend

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Hal

Harold L. Miller II (Hal)

Federal Protective Service

Department of Homeland Security

Pittsburgh, PA.

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Thanks

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From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:13 AM
To: 'harold.l.miller@hq.dhs.gov'
Subject: July 31st Public Hearing on EPA Proposed Clean Power Plan - public access and the REAL ID Act

Harold – Thanks for taking the time to talk with me this morning about our upcoming public hearing. As we discussed, I am concerned that the next phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act, beginning on July 21, 2014, will be a problem some members of the public accessing the hearing EPA plans to hold at the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh.

We will have a list of pre-registered speakers but other members of the public will likely show up to listen to the all or parts of the hearing.

In an effort to prepare people, we will share the information below with pre-registered participants. In addition, we have posted it on our web site associated with this proposed action and associated hearings and we have included it in the *Federal Register* notice for the proposed rule.

Please note that the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, established new requirements for entering Federal facilities. These requirements will take effect July 21, 2014. If your driver's license is issued by Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, or Washington State, you must present an additional form of identification to enter the Federal buildings where the public hearings will be held. Acceptable alternative forms of identification include: Federal employee badges, passports, enhanced driver's licenses and military identification cards. We will list any additional, acceptable forms of identification at: http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-

standards/forms/public-hearings-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule.

I remain concerned that others will not see this change in policy and may show up without knowing. I do not want them to be turned away and hope we can come up with a plan that will work. If needed, I will insure that we have enough EPA staff at the hearing in Pittsburgh to act as escorts as needed.

Thank you for understanding my concern and looking into this issue for us. Please don't hesitate to call if there are any questions.

Jan Cortelyou-Lee

US Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

MD-C404-03

109 TW Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Desk: 919-541-5393

Cell: 919-368-5734

To: Ragland, Micah[Ragland.Micah@epa.gov]; Bond, Brian[Bond.Brian@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 5:19:34 PM
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Thanks M. See u tomorrow. ATL pretty mellow today.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:13 PM
To: Bond, Brian; Purchia, Liz; Drinkard, Andrea; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Davis, Alison
Subject: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Below is a press release that the UMWA put out last night saying that they are expecting 5,000 people to show up for their opposition rally/march tomorrow. The opposition rally yesterday in Pittsburgh headlined by PA Governor Tom Corbett and WV Governor Earl Ray Tomblin attracted nearly 2,000 people.

More than 5,000 expected at July 31 labor rally and march in Pittsburgh

July 29, 2014

Press conference to be held prior to rally at David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Pittsburgh, PA. - More than 5000 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the Utility Workers Union of America, along with railway workers, their families and supporters are expected in Pittsburgh July 31 for rally and march in downtown Pittsburgh protesting a proposed rule by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would restrict the use of coal to generate electricity.

Buses are bringing workers and their families from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Alabama.

"It is beyond belief that the EPA would refuse to hold one of its public hearings in the coalfields where the people who will be most adversely affected by this proposed rule live and work," said UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts. "We believe that EPA still can and should hold a hearing in the coalfields, but since they have not scheduled one yet, we decided to bring the coalfields to them."

WHAT: Press conference, rally and march by union members protesting EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan

WHEN: Thursday, July 31

Press conference starts at 9:30 a.m.

Rally starts at 11:00 a.m.

March starts approx. noon

WHERE: David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Press Conference in Room 335

Rally in Hall A

Marchers will assemble on Tenth St., march to Penn Ave., turn right and march on Penn Ave. to Seventh St., turn left and march across Liberty Ave. to Sixth Ave., proceed to Grant St., turn left and proceed William S. Morehead Federal Building at Grant and Liberty.

WHO: Union members from eight states and their families

UMWA International President Cecil E.Roberts

IBEW International President Edwin Hill

UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer Dan Kane

Allegheny Central Labor Council President Jack Shea

To: Ragland, Micah[Ragland.Micah@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison[Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 7:58:45 PM
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Hey Alison, I am in Moorhead building heading over to Westin lobby, let me know if you have five minutes b/w now 5:30 to touch base real quick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Got it, that works for me

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Ragland, Micah
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

I'm in the westin lobby listening to a briefing. Pat from R3 and I are meeting with building security at 330 - we may want to circle up after that.

Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Office: 919-541-7587
Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:29:56 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Hey Alison, I just checked in to my hotel to drop off my luggage, I am out in Cranberry

Township about 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Just let me know when and where you need me today. I am leaving to head downtown in about 15 minutes, I just have to finish replying to some DC-work related e-mails.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:21 PM
To: Ragland, Micah
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Thanks. When do you get in?
Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Office: 919-541-7587
Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:13:47 PM
To: Bond, Brian; Purchia, Liz; Drinkard, Andrea; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Davis, Alison
Subject: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

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WHO: Union members from eight states and their families

UMWA International President Cecil E.Roberts

IBEW International President Edwin Hill

UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer Dan Kane

Allegheny Central Labor Council President Jack Shea

To: Terry, Sara[Terry.Sara@epa.gov]
From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 7:32:52 PM
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

Excellent. I am not surprised.

Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Office: 919-541-7587
Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Terry, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 3:14:23 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: Re: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

We have been able to work in everyone who came unregistered. Most of those have been enviros.

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:55 AM
To: Terry, Sara
Subject: FW: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

---

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Drinkard, Andrea; Davis, Alison; Hull, George; Lee, Monica; Allen, Laura; Jones, Enesta
Subject: Daily Caller: 1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

First story I've seen really critiquing the hearings themselves, focused on not allowing everyone who wants to speak to speak, Federal ID requirements and the size of the hearing rooms. They're making the assumption that we are preventing people against the rule from speaking. But it was

a first come first serve process correct?

It does include our responses about working to accommodate as many speakers as possible and to ensure Federal ID doesn't stop people from participating.

http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/

1,600 To Testify At EPA Carbon Rule Hearings — But Some Opposition Groups Won't Be Heard

1:19 PM 07/29/2014

Michael Bastasch

The Environmental Protection Agency has kicked off its week of field hearings on its Clean Power Plan. Thousands have signed up to speak, but others got notices from the EPA saying they would not get a time slot to testify before agency officials.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The plan has been backed by environmental groups and Democrats, but opposed by businesses and Republicans who say it will raise energy costs and force the shutdown of coal plants.

To get feedback on the rule, the agency announced four public field hearings across the country this week. The hearings will take place at federal buildings in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

Around 1,600 people have signed up to speak, but not everyone was allowed to have time to testify before agency officials. Some groups critical of the EPA's agenda were not able to secure speaking slots despite signing up early.

Matthew Kandrach was surprised to find an email from the EPA eight days after he submitted a request for a time slot to speak. Kandrach is vice president at the free-market group the 60 Plus Association,

which is opposed to the EPA's CPP because it would raise power prices for seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

"This is literally a life or death situation for seniors when they have to choose between food, medication and energy," Kandrach told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Kandrach signed up for on July 9 for his group to speak at hearings in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. After signing up for the hearing, he got no confirmation email, but was simply directed to a landing page which thanked him for his submission. With no confirmation email sent, the 60 Plus Association believed they had secured a time to speak.

But eight days later, Kandrach got a confusing email (which went into his spam folder) from an EPA official saying no time slots were left open to speak at the hearing in Atlanta. The EPA official said they would be able to attend the Atlanta hearing and could even request to have speaking time, but there was no guarantee such a request would be granted.

"Once you sign up why wouldn't you get an instant response?" Kandrach asked TheDCNF. "Eight days later you get this blanket rejection. We went in thinking we had a spot, only to find out later the slots were actually filled already when we signed up."

"Why didn't they do even more sign-ups if they were too overwhelmed?" Kandrach added.

The free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute encountered a similar problem. It too signed up to speak on the record at the hearing in Washington, D.C., only to receive an email about two weeks later saying it would not get a speaking time slot.

"We signed up very shortly after we had the ability to do so," CEI senior fellow William Yeatman told TheDCNF. "Ten to thirteen days later, we were told all the time slots were full and they could not accommodate us."

"I'm very disappointed," Yeatman added. "I thought we signed up early enough to get a spot."

TheDCNF was also told by sources that the National Black Chamber of Commerce was not able to secure a speaking slot for at least one of the EPA hearings, but the group did not immediately respond to our request for comment. NBCC has warned that EPA's carbon emissions cuts would raise prices, disproportionately harm minority businesses and communities.

"For low-income Americans, too many of whom are African-American, this rule could also be extremely harmful," NBCC Harry Ashford wrote in the Hill newspaper. "With energy costs rising at a pace greater than the average family income, families, especially low-income families, are shouldering an enormous burden of the cost to power their homes and are often forced to make difficult decisions between other critical needs, like food and housing."

"Many groups and individuals who hoped to provide their input at this week's public hearings were not even able to secure a speaking slot, and the high demand for input, and growing chorus of opposition, reinforces the need to expand the public comment period and hold more hearings across the country, especially in areas most affected by these overreaching regulations," said Laura Sheehan, spokeswoman for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity.

The EPA, however, said they were doing their best to allow everyone to speak.

"Contrary to what you have heard, we're working to accommodate everyone who registered to speak," an EPA spokesman told TheDCNF. "We expect to hear from about 1,600 people over the course of the

week."

The EPA hearings have already come under fire from both sides after the agency announced more stringent identification requirements for entering federal buildings where the CPP hearings were to be held.

EPA officials put out a notice saying that people with ID cards from certain states "must present an additional form of identification to enter the federal buildings where the public hearings will be held." Such states include Kentucky, a major coal producing states where lawmakers have been critical of EPA regulations.

"This identification requirement at the locations you chose makes (my constituents') attendance now virtually impossible," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wrote to the EPA earlier this month.

The EPA says that acceptable forms of identification include federal IDs, passports, green cards and military IDs. But residents of some coal states aren't likely to have secondary IDs. For example Kentuckians and West Virginians are much less likely to have passports than the rest of the country — 20 percent and 15 percent, as opposed to 37 percent for the country as a whole.

Even environmentalist were shocked by the agency's stringent ID requirements. But the EPA has said it would work to make sure everyone who wanted to see the hearing was able to.

"We were pretty taken aback by it," Alex DeSha, an organizer for the Sierra Club in eastern Kentucky, told E&E News. "A lot of people don't know that this is even a thing."

"It's 200 bucks to get a passport expedited," DeSha added. "It's just one more step that will disenfranchise people from engaging in the public process."

The coal industry and others have also criticized the EPA for the location of the public hearings — in space-restricted locations far away from coal country.

"It seems like there's been a real adoption by the EPA to do it in very small rooms in certain cities often very far away from coal mining and coal usage," Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, told E&E News.

Read more: http://dailycaller.com/2014/07/29/1600-to-testify-at-epa-carbon-rule-hearings-but-some-opposition-groups-wont-be-heard/#ixzz38sgZ4SPT

Liz Purchia

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Direct: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

To: Ragland, Micah[Ragland.Micah@epa.gov]
From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Wed 7/30/2014 9:18:24 PM
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Can you give me a call?
Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Office: 919-541-7587
Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 3:58:45 PM
To: Ragland, Micah; Davis, Alison
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

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Mobile: 919-624-0872

From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:29:56 PM
To: Davis, Alison
Subject: RE: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Hey Alison, I just checked in to my hotel to drop off my luggage, I am out in Cranberry Township about 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Just let me know when and where you need me today. I am leaving to head downtown in about 15 minutes, I just have to finish replying to some DC-work related e-mails.

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:21 PM
To: Ragland, Micah
Subject: Re: Info on UMWA Rally Tomorrow

Thanks. When do you get in?
Alison Davis
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
US EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
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From: Ragland, Micah
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:13:47 PM
To: Bond, Brian; Purchia, Liz; Drinkard, Andrea; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Davis, Alison
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WHERE: David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Press Conference in Room 335

Rally in Hall A

Marchers will assemble on Tenth St., march to Penn Ave., turn right and march on Penn Ave. to Seventh St., turn left and march across Liberty Ave. to Sixth Ave., proceed to Grant St., turn left and proceed William S. Morehead Federal Building at Grant and Liberty.

WHO: Union members from eight states and their families

UMWA International President Cecil E.Roberts

IBEW International President Edwin Hill

UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer Dan Kane

Allegheny Central Labor Council President Jack Shea

To: Noonan, Jenny[Noonan.Jenny@epa.gov]; Wayland, Robertj[Wayland.Robertj@epa.gov]; Conner, Lisa[Conner.Lisa@epa.gov]; Ashley, Jackie[Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; Garrett, Pamela[Garrett.Pamela@epa.gov]
Cc: Kurlansky, Ellen[Kurlansky.Ellen@epa.gov]
From: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 9:05:34 PM
Subject: Re: Forwarding a comment on the Clean Power Plan Rule --- received in error on the EJ List serve

I spoke to this person late last week. When I told her we could not take her testimony by phone, I told her I would send information on other ways to comment which I did by email over the weekend. I also promised to let her know when the hearing transcripts were ready. She seemed very happy with that outcome by phone. She did not reply to my email but it did not bounce back.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Noonan, Jenny
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:51 PM
To: Wayland, Robertj; Conner, Lisa; Ashley, Jackie; Hackel, Angela; Garrett, Pamela
Cc: Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Kurlansky, Ellen
Subject: Re: Forwarding a comment on the Clean Power Plan Rule --- received in error on the EJ List

I will figure this out.

Sent from my BlackBerry

From: Wayland, Robertj
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 12:15 PM
To: Conner, Lisa; Ashley, Jackie; Hackel, Angela; Garrett, Pamela
Cc: Noonan, Jenny
Subject: RE: Forwarding a comment on the Clean Power Plan Rule --- received in error on the EJ List

Jenny has been handling these types of issues for us.

thanx!

bob

Robert J. Wayland, Ph.D.

Leader, Energy Strategies Group

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Sector Policies and Programs Division

Mail Code D243-01

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Office: (919) 541-1045

Cell: (919) 306-2290

Fax: (919) 541-5450

Email: wayland.robertj@epa.gov

****

DRAFT/Deliberative Document - FOIA Exempt

****

From: Conner, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Wayland, Robertj; Ashley, Jackie; Hackel, Angela; Garrett, Pamela
Subject: FW: Forwarding a comment on the Clean Power Plan Rule --- received in error on the EJ List serve
Importance: High

Can someone contact this person if its not too late to speak with her directly. She sounds frustrated – although it looks like she sent the request to an EJ listserv instead of contacting us.

From: Kurlansky, Ellen
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:54 AM

To: Noonan, Jenny; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan; Conner, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Forwarding a comment on the Clean Power Plan Rule --- received in error on the EJ List serve
Importance: High

I am also not sure who this should go to. Maybe one of you? Or at least you would know who it goes to. Right?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Elizabeth O'Nan <pace@mcdowell.main.nc.us>
To: Environmental-Justice@EPA
Date: 07/25/2014 01:14 PM
Subject: Post to EPA-EJ ListServ

I had called to request speaker phone disability access for the EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule public hearings and was denied access to the meeting. However, I was told that I would be sent an email informing me where I could send comments. I never received this information. In hopes that information about a major source of carbon pollution that is being promoted by the federal government while simultaneously leading the public to believe the EPA is reducing carbon pollution with Clean Power, I submit these comments for inclusion in the upcoming public meeting.

Elizabeth O'Nan
Vice President
Blue Ridge Environmental
Defense League
Phone: 828 724 4221
Email: pace@mcdowell.main.nc.us
Website: www.bredl.org

EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule
July 18, 2014

My name is Elizabeth O'Nan. I serve as Vice President with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, a 30 year old regional, community based, non-profit environmental organization. As such I commend all government efforts to reduce carbon pollution from Power Plants by 30% of 2005 levels or more. I agree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that implementation of the Clean Power Plan will greatly reduce health costs, premature deaths and asthma attacks in children.
However, it makes little sense to curtail carbon pollution from power plants while simultaneously increasing carbon pollution from "prescribed burns" by the United States Forest Service under the United States Department of Agriculture as well as various state Wildlife and Forestry Departments. For the same reasons that justify implementation of the Clean Power Plan, prescribed burns should be stopped.
Increased contributions to climate change's dangerous and costly effects.
Prescribed burns cause loss of trees as carbon sinks as well as added pollution. Unsightly burns discourage tourism profits that are greatly needed. **(4)**
Health Costs of Prescribed Burns
Wood smoke from prescribed burns is dangerous to unborn fetuses, infants, and the elderly as well as

normal people as it is 12 times more carcinogenic than tobacco, and kills human cells up to 40 times longer than tobacco. There is no way to avoid exposures as prescribed burn smoke particles and gases penetrate inside homes reaching up to 70 percent of outside air levels. Even short exposures can prove fatal in some cases. Studies **(1,2,3,5,6,7)** show that prescribed burn smoke can cause cancer, strokes, heart attacks, high blood pressure, prevent proper development in unborn fetuses, heart and kidney failure, brain damage, and other chronic health problems that increase human suffering and health care expenses.

Prescribed Burns Waste Taxes

Recent science shows that prescribed burns do not reduce the incidence or intensity of wild fires as intended and too frequently burn out of control resulting in loss of life and property.
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1466-8238.2011.00750.x/abstract

"**Our research shows that reducing fuels isn't going to reduce severity much," he said. "Even if you reduce fuels, you are still going to have severe fires" because of extreme weather."**
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110218111711.htm

"Preventing an increase in fire frequency -- instead of prescribed burning -- can be crucial for maintaining soil integrity, water supplies, water quality and biodiversity. Suitable management practices are therefore difficult to predict."

It does little to reduce carbon pollution from power plants if we increase carbon pollution from prescribed burns. If efforts to reduce power plant carbon pollution are to be effective we must stop deliberate increases from other sources, especially prescribed burns.

==========

1. http://burningissues.org/car-www/medical_effects/childrens-disease/developed-world-ws-child.html
2. http://burningissues.org/ws-more-damage-ts.html
3. http://www.ehhi.org/woodsmoke/health_effects.shtml
4. https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/91br023.pdf
5. http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/fastfacts.html
6. http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/basic.html
7. http://www.ehhi.org/woodsmoke/health_effects.shtml

Respectfully,

Elizabeth O'Nan
Vice President
Blue Ridge Environmental
Defense League
Phone: 828 724 4221
Email: pace@mcdowell.main.nc.us
Website: www.bredl.org

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2014

For More Information Contact:

Tricia Bruckbauer, Creation Justice Ministries, 253-592-5534, tricia@creationjustice.org
Joelle Novey, Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA), 202-256-1450, joelle@gwipl.org
Liz Schmitt, Sojourners, 607-738-9707, lschmitt@sojo.net

Faith Leaders Speak Out for EPA's Clean Power Plan

Show Support Through Prayer and Public Witness

Tues 7/29 8:30 am	**Multifaith Blessing for EPA's Clean Power Plan** *EPA on 12th St NW between Constitution and Pennsylvania*
Tues 7/29 9 am-8pm	EPA Hearings on Clean Power Plan
Wed 7/30 9 am-8 pm	**Twenty-six faith leaders will testify**, most on Wednesday (see following page for schedule) *Environmental Protection Agency, Clinton Building, 1201 Constitution Ave, NW*

Washington DC – Faith leaders throughout the region are seeing the EPA's Clean Power Plan as the beginning of a moral and comprehensive response to climate change that puts the US on the path to sustainability. Over two dozen faith leaders from DC, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Iowa will testify at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) DC listening session on reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants (see following page for schedule). Religious leaders are likewise speaking out at hearings this week around the country in Atlanta, Denver, and Pittsburgh.

In addition, people of faith will gather near the EPA headquarters in DC on Tuesday morning at 8:30 am to pray for the process and for those providing witness to the importance of the EPA's rulemaking. People from nine Christian denominations and the Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist traditions will gather together, urging EPA to move quickly and finalize these safeguards so as to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

"In our religious communities, people understand that climate change is real and are heart-sick about the suffering it will cause for our neighbors close to home and around the world," said Joelle Novey, director of **Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)**, one of forty state Interfaith Power & Light programs engaging religious communities in responding to climate issues. "We're offering our blessings to the EPA today for this important process that will finally put some limits on climate pollution from power plants."

"The impacts of climate change are no longer in the future," noted Tricia Bruckbauer, coordinator of **Creation Justice Ministries**, an organization of 37 national Christian denominations called to climate justice and creation care. "We must reduce our emissions to ensure climate justice for all of God's people and God's Creation."

"The United States has an opportunity to make history with this EPA rule," says Lisa Sharon Harper, who is the senior director of mobilizing for **Sojourners**, a Christian organization that articulates the Biblical call to social justice. "These safeguards can protect people in every corner of our country, rural and urban, from the devastation of climate change. This move can only be hailed by my evangelical colleagues and all people of faith as one more step toward protection of the image of God in all people on our soil."

Faith communities throughout the US have reduced their carbon emissions by weatherizing their buildings, investing in renewable energy, and choosing low carbon options that are more sustainable. They are calling on government and utilities throughout the US to do the same.

The following religious leaders are among those expected to testify on Tuesday and Wednesday at Environmental Protection Agency's William Jefferson Clinton Building on 1201 Constitution Ave NW. There will be two hearing rooms in use simultaneously.

Tuesday, July 29

9:15 AM	Rev.	Delman	Coates	**Mt. Ennon Baptist Church** (Clinton, MD)	Baptist
9:55 AM	Rev.	Lennox	Yearwood	**Hip Hop Caucus** (Washington, DC)	Christian
4:20 PM		Jayce	Hafner	**The Episcopal Church** (Washington, DC)	Episcopal
7:40 PM		John	Hill	**United Methodist Church, Board of Church & Society** (DC)	Methodist

Wednesday, July 30

9:45 AM		Joelle	Novey	**Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)** (Silver Spring, MD)	Jewish
10:20 AM	Rev.	Ashley	Goff	**Church of the Pilgrims, Presbyterian** (Arlington, VA)	Presbyterian
10:40 AM	Rev.	M.	Dele	**St. Paul Baptist, Elm Street Campus, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light** (Victoria, VA)	Baptist
1:25 PM		Jose	Aguto	**Friends Committee on National Legislation** (Arlington, VA)	Catholic
1:30 PM		Liz	Schmitt	**Sojourners** (Washington, DC)	Christian
1:35 PM		David	Kepley	**Providence Presbyterian Church** (Fairfax, VA)	Presbyterian
1:40 PM		Nitin	Dogra	**Bhumi Project** (Loudoun, VA)	Hindu
1:45 PM	Rev.	Darriel	Harris	**Baltimore Food & Faith Project** (Baltimore, MD)	Episcopal
1:50 PM	Rev.	Richard	Cizik	**New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light** (Fredericksburg, VA)	Evangelical
1:55 PM		Tricia	Bruckbauer	**Creation Justice Ministries** (Washington DC)	Lutheran
2:15 PM	Rev.	Bill	Rosenow	*retired*, **Muhlenberg Lutheran Church** (Harrisonburg, VA)	Lutheran
2:20 PM		Mary	Minette	**Evengelical Lutheran Church in America** (Washington, DC)	Lutheran
2:25 PM	Rev.	Cheryl	Pyrch	**Summit Presbyterian Church** (Philadelphia, PA)	Presbyterian
2:35 PM		Priscilla	Martinez	**All Dulles-Area Muslim Society – ADAMS** (Herndon, VA)	Muslim
3:10 PM		Anthony	Vance	**Baha'is of the United States** (Washington, DC)	Baha'i
3:35 PM		Natalie	Pien	**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Loudoun** (Loudoun, VA)	Unitarian Universalist
3:55 PM	Rev.	Barbara	Schlachter	**Episcopal Diocese of Iowa** (Iowa)	Episcopal
4:00 PM		Kristin	Barker	**One Earth Sangha** (Washington, DC)	Buddhist
6:10 PM	Rev.	Susan	Guy	**Iowa Interfaith Power & Light** (Iowa)	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
6:15 PM	Rabbi	Jeffrey	Saxe	**Temple Rodef Shalom** (Falls Church, VA)	Jewish / Reform
7:10 PM		Jaydee	Hanson	**Caretakers of God's Creation, United Methodist Church** (Arlington, VA)	Methodist
7:20 PM		Sophie	Golomb	**Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism** (Washington, DC)	Jewish / Reform
7:45 PM		Erik	Backus	**Lutherans Restoring Creation** (Annandale, VA)	Lutheran

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