



For Immediate Release  
October 29, 2013

Media Contacts: Kim Smith Hicks, Zachary Kurz  
(202) 225-6371

**Statement of Energy Subcommittee Chairman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)  
Hearing on EPA Power Plant Regulations: Is the Technology Ready?**

**Chairman Lummis:** Good morning and thank you for joining us for today's hearing on Carbon Capture and Storage Technology.

The EPA has proposed New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for any future coal fired power plants. These standards can be achieved only through the application of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) – a technology that is not currently in operation at a commercial scale power plant anywhere in the world.

Instead of basing these requirements on technologies that are actually proven achievable on a commercial scale, EPA is redefining and stretching the requirement that technology be “adequately demonstrated.” This leaves many unanswered questions: will the installment of carbon capture technology be functional? Are there plans for transportation on a large scale basis? What is the liability for storage of carbon dioxide over the long-term?

EPA would like Congress oversight of these standards to include only its impact on future coal plants. The Obama Administration has spent much of the past few years casting coal as a villain. This regulation effectively bans the building of new coal plants, and fulfills President Obama's campaign promise to “bankrupt” coal companies.

But this hearing is not only about the proposed regulation. It is also about the legal precedent of mandating unproven technologies. The distinction the agency makes between coal and natural gas plants is dubious at best. By claiming that carbon capture technology is adequately demonstrated for coal, there is scant justification – legal or technical - for not requiring it for natural gas units.

If EPA is allowed to twist the definition of “adequately demonstrated” to include yet-to-be-proven technologies for power plants, there is also little to stop EPA from doing the same for other manufacturers like refiners, cement or steel plants. Not only would this throw our economy into tail-spin, it would force manufacturers to flee to countries with less strict environmental requirements, costing jobs and increasing global emissions.

Coal is our country's most abundant and affordable energy sources. Thanks to the deployment of proven technologies, its production is safe and environmentally sound. The President has already made it clear that his goal is to apply these standards to existing plants as well. This policy of picking winners and losers through environmental regulations is reckless and dangerous. I continue to support an all-of-the-above energy policy, not one based purely on politics.

None of this should be taken lightly. Affordable, reliable electricity is the backbone of a healthy economy. Rising electricity prices affect everything – from the cost of basic commodities, like food – to our competitive position in the world. And because increasing energy prices act as a regressive tax, they hit the poor and those on fixed incomes the hardest.

America cannot afford to allow EPA edicts to control our energy policy. These new regulations will make life harder for working families, for single moms struggling to get by, and for anyone who lives paycheck to paycheck. This is something we should be guarding against, not encouraging.

I look forward to hearing the panel of witnesses discuss the development of this technology, its potential and limitations and the impact this rule could have on future advances. Thank you for joining us.

###