



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

State Perspectives: How EPA's Power Plan Will Shut Down Power Plants

Chairman Smith: Over the last year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released some of the most expensive and burdensome regulations in its history. These rules will cost billions of dollars, place a heavy burden on American families and diminish the competitiveness of American industry around the world.

Today's hearing will examine the Clean Power Plan and the manner in which EPA has used secret science, questionable legal interpretations, and flawed analysis to place tremendous and unlawful burdens on the states. And yet, despite these issues, this Administration continues to force costly and unnecessary regulations on hardworking American families.

On August 3rd, the Obama administration ignored the outcry from stakeholders and the American public when it issued the final rule on its Power Plan. The Clean Air Act was never intended to regulate carbon. This final rule is another example of the president and his Environmental Protection Agency sidestepping Congress to push an extreme environmental agenda.

It is well documented that the final plan will shut down power plants across the country, increase electricity prices and cost thousands of Americans their jobs. My home state of Texas would be one of the hardest hit. The state would be forced to close affordable coal-fired power plants, which also provide reliable electricity during peak usage times in the summer. Additionally, the rule will cause double digit electricity price increases across the United States. Despite EPA's statements to the contrary, this rule goes well beyond the regulation of power plants, even reaching down into Americans' homes to control electricity use.

Higher energy prices means the price of everything will increase, and low-income families already struggling to make ends meet will be among those most burdened by this costly rule. The so-called Clean Power Plan is simply a power grab that will force states to try to reach arbitrary and often impossible targets for carbon emissions.

EPA asserts that the Clean Power Plan will help combat climate change. However, EPA's own data demonstrates that is false. This data shows that this regulation would reduce sea level rise by only 1/100th of an inch, the thickness of three sheets of paper.

This rule represents massive costs without significant benefits. In other words, it's all pain and no gain. Under the Clean Power Plan, Americans will be subject to the constant threat of government intervention. The onslaught of EPA regulations continues.

I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses about the impact of these burdensome EPA regulations on their states.

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