

Asa Hutchinson

December 1, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
Docket ID No. OAR-2013-0602
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing to you today to express my objections to the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants.

One objection is the increased costs Arkansans and Arkansas's manufacturing can expect to face if the proposed plan is implemented. Arkansas's electric power generation comes from multiple sources, but coal powered plants constitute a major source of Arkansas's electrical power. This means that additional mandates, including the 111(d) proposal, that close coal powered plants or increase the costs of generating power from coal will cause an increase in costs for Arkansas's residents and manufacturers. Such increases will negatively affect the economic growth and well-being of Arkansans.

A second objection is about reducing the diversity of Arkansas's power sources. Arkansas benefits from having diverse and reliable power sources, but the targeted reduction of coal usage will reduce our ability to provide reliable power in times of severe, cold weather. Coal is easily transported while natural gas is more susceptible to interruption because of weather events.

A third objection is the increased competition for limited resources that a reduction in coal usage would entail. Natural gas could be a replacement for cheaper, reliable coal, but without increasing the supply and improving the infrastructure of natural gas and other sources of power, the additional demand for natural gas during winter and other cooler months will increase costs for Arkansans because many Arkansans use natural gas to heat their homes. Increasing the use of natural gas for generating power will necessarily increase prices for Arkansans.

Finally, under federal law, the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to issue Section 111(d) regulations for emission sources subject to regulation under section 112 National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants of the Clean Air Act. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency does have the authority to regulate emissions from specific sources, but that authority does not extend outside the physical boundaries of that source. By proposing a wide reaching mandate that includes integrating the electrical system and altering consumer behavior, EPA has overstepped its legal authority.

I am requesting that the Administration withdraw the proposal until the federal government has developed an informed plan of action to address the concerns raised by this letter.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson
Governor-Elect
State of Arkansas