

Polls Reveal Americans Worried about Impacts of EPA Power Plant

Most Americans are worried that proposed EPA policies will produce higher electricity costs and result in blackouts and brownouts. Voters in key battleground states are more likely to oppose candidates that support EPA's power plant rules. Voters believe the President should focus more attention on job creation than new power plant regulations.

Harris Poll – April 2014

Key Findings

- Three out of four Americans (76 percent) are worried that proposed EPA policies to eliminate coal-generated electricity will produce higher electricity costs. Their concerns are not unfounded. Removing reliable and affordable coal generation from the energy mix forces America to rely more on fuels subject to volatile swings in price and supply. Many Americans reported higher electricity bills this winter, largely as the result of a cold spell when electricity prices in their regions tracked the price of natural gas and alternative fuels, used to generate their power.
- The national poll reveals that concern is greatest (88%) among retirees, senior citizens living on fixed incomes who are particularly sensitive to cost increases.
- Most Americans (70 percent) are worried that the proposed EPA regulations designed to eliminate coal-powered electricity from the nation's energy mix, if approved, will lead to electricity black-outs and brown-outs this summer. Heavy summer and winter usage alike can stress the nation's power grid and heighten the effects of a failure in any part of the system. Implementing regulations that shut down coal facilities will remove the most dependable source of electricity from that system.

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online from April 8-10, 2014 among 2,058 U.S. adults (aged 18+) by Harris Poll on behalf of the National Mining Association.

Magellan Poll – June 2014

Key Findings:

- An average of 55.2% of respondents are more likely to oppose a candidate for the US Senate that supports the new emission regulation, 31.4% are more likely to support a candidate that supports the regulation, and 13.4% are unsure or do not have an opinion after hearing information about the EPA proposal.
- An average of 76% of voters believe it is more important for President Obama to be focusing his time and attention on creating jobs and growing the economy than creating a new regulation for power plants to combat climate change.

- When voters are informed of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's comment that there will be a "short term hit" to consumers, an average of 59.1% of respondents were more likely to oppose the proposal, 17.9% were more likely to support it, and 20.2% responded it made no difference in their decision to support or oppose the proposal.
- When voters are informed that the EPA proposal would require 50 states to meet their carbon emission target limits through state-based cap and trade, tax and regulatory programs, an average of 48.8% of respondents are more likely to oppose the proposal, 22.2% are more likely to support it, and 24.0% responded that it made no difference in their decision to support or oppose the proposal.
- When voters are informed the US Chamber of Commerce found that a similar carbon emissions proposal would result in the loss of 224,000 jobs each year through 2030, and cost \$50 billion to the economy, an average of 62.2% of respondents are more likely to oppose the proposal, 13.2% are more likely to support it, and the information made no difference to 21.1% of respondents.

Survey Methodology

Likely 2014 general election voters in eight states were surveyed between June 4th and June 8th to measure voter opinion of the newly proposed EPA carbon emissions regulation, as well as how information about the proposal impacts voter opinion. States included Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana and North Carolina.