

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

EPA Releases Proposed Power Plant Emissions Rules

Sept. 20, 2013

On Sept. 20, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy unveiled [proposed regulations](#) on carbon dioxide emissions produced by future power plants.

The first ever limits on carbon emissions from power plants, which will not affect existing power plants, were sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review on June 25. On that same day, while introducing his Climate Action Plan, the president released a [memorandum](#) directing the agency to issue a final rule on carbon pollution standards for both future and existing power plants, in a timely manner. For more information on the president's Climate Action Plan see the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee [Info Alert](#).

The rule differentiates emission limits between coal-fired plants and natural gas-fired turbines. For coal-fired plants, the proposed regulation would set emission limits at 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour and require any new coal-fired power plant be fitted with technology to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions, known as CCS technology. The plants would therefore be required to capture and store approximately 40 percent of their emissions. Plants would be able to average emissions over seven years if they agree to tighter emission limits (1,000-1,050 pounds per megawatt hour). According to the EPA, the average emissions of carbon dioxide from a coal-fired power plant are currently around 2,249 pounds per megawatt hour.

Carbon dioxide emissions from large natural gas-fired turbines would be capped at 1,000 pounds per megawatt hour while smaller natural gas-fired turbines would be allowed 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour. Currently the average emissions of carbon dioxide from natural gas-fired turbines are 1,135 pounds per megawatt hour.

Along with the release of the new proposed regulations the EPA rescinded the standards on greenhouse gas emission limits for new power plants that the agency originally introduced in 2012.

The proposal is slated to be finalized in one year, and will immediately go into effect, per the requirements under the Clean Air Act. The agency is seeking public comment on the rules for the next 60 days and will hold a public hearing to provide further details. EPA has **also** begun the

process of drafting proposed regulations for existing power plants that are expected to be released by June 2014 for public comment.

For those interested, EPA will hold a conference call to gain feedback and provide further information on the rule from State and Local stakeholders **today, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m. EDT**. All are welcome to attend. Call-in information is below:

Participant Dial-in Number: (877) 290-8017
Conference ID#: 68823558

For more information on the EPA regulations please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597)

More Information

[EPA Carbon Pollution Standards Website](#)

[EPA Press Release](#)