

Cleaner Air, Lower Prices, More Jobs

What is DEP proposing?

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution standards for both new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. The EPA proposal for existing fossil fuel-fired plants is expected to be available June 1, 2014, with a final rulemaking due by June 2015.
- In anticipation of EPA's proposal, Pennsylvania submitted a plan for consideration that would achieve lower emissions from existing power plants, which would lead to cleaner air, by removing obstacles and encouraging efficiency projects. This plan is critical to maintaining the stable and diverse supply of electricity vital to our economy and national security.
- At the heart of Pennsylvania's plan is efficiency and the preservation of states' authority and discretion in the development and implementation of emissions control programs.

Why is this important?

- An EPA mandate that does not provide for an "all of the above" energy approach does not recognize Pennsylvania's diverse energy resources and would compromise electric grid reliability, increase the cost of energy and result in significant job loss.

A Creative Path Forward

- Under Governor Tom Corbett's leadership, Pennsylvania is continuing to make great progress in its efforts to position the state as a world leader in the new energy economy while ensuring that we continue improving our air quality and protecting public health.
- The key to the success of any effort to reduce CO₂ is optimizing and maximizing the benefits of efficiency projects. Pennsylvania's plan would put an end to penalizing efficient plants for increased demand.

Cleaner air, lower prices, more jobs at the same time?

- Pennsylvania is committed to meeting all of its environmental needs in a fashion that allows us to best serve the needs of our citizens.
- The best way to achieve this is to implement a plan that focuses on state leadership, provides flexibility and takes advantage of a wide range of energy resources and technologies towards building a cleaner power sector.
- Specifically, the Pennsylvania plan has identified that:
 - ◇ Emissions guidelines must be developed in close consultation with the states.
 - ◇ EPA must establish guidelines for reductions, rather than establish mandate pathways to achieve them.
 - ◇ EPA must recognize the different makeup of the existing power generation fleets in each state.
 - ◇ Modifications to New Source Review must be accomplished so efficient plants are not penalized for increased demand as a result of investments in energy efficiency.

An "Everybody Wins" Solution

- A flexible, state-by-state approach preserves fuel diversity and grid reliability.
- Investments in efficiency result in lower operating costs, cheaper energy for consumers and improved air quality through lower emissions of all pollutants, not just CO₂. This proposal allows all sectors to invest in and benefit from efficiency improvements.
- An efficient, stable, diverse supply of energy improves competitiveness, preserves existing jobs, creates new jobs and expands the Pennsylvania economy.