



# EPA's Clean Power Plan

---

## How did we get here?

- **June 2014** – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the Clean Power Plan (CPP), calling for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions reductions from existing power plants by 2030.
- **August 2015** – The EPA finalized CPP using the same timeline but increased overall CO<sub>2</sub> reductions.
  - National target CO<sub>2</sub> reduction increased from 30% as proposed to 32% in the final rule.
  - ND's target CO<sub>2</sub> reduction increased from 11% as proposed to 45% in the final rule.
  - States given until September 2016 to submit initial State Implementation Plan (SIP)

## What does the CPP mean for North Dakota?

- **A 45% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could result in shutting down some coal-fired generation and replacing it with other non-emitting generation resources to fully comply.**
  - Retiring power plants means associated coal mines will also likely close.
  - In 2014, the ND lignite industry accounted for over \$3 billion in total economic activity.
  - Decreased tax revenue will impact the state and local communities.
- **The CPP fails to recognize the role and value of efficient, reliable and affordable baseload power generation utilized in North Dakota and exported across the region.**
  - Baseload power would likely be replaced with intermittent, renewable sources, impacting grid management, performance, reliability and the operation of wholesale electric markets.

## Is there a solution?

- **Legal Action**
  - North Dakota has filed a lawsuit because the final rule quadrupled our emissions goal, we export much of the power we produce, and lignite is unique.
  - Lawsuits can take years to conclude, and a stay from the courts could mean the rule wouldn't go into effect.
- **North Dakota State Implementation Plan**
  - Should be reasonable, and achievable, without sacrificing existing coal generation, impacting reliability, and resulting in economic harm.
  - Should be as flexible as possible, not focusing on the interim goals, to give the state through 2030 to work towards CO<sub>2</sub> goals.
  - Should recognize constraints, and allow for appropriate time to develop technology and infrastructure to meet the rule.
  - Should account for load growth in North Dakota – need to keep existing plants in operation, as well as facilitate new generation to provide for the growing power needs of the state.
- **Technology**
  - The industry has invested over \$2 billion in the last two decades to reduce emissions of pollutants.
  - North Dakota is one of only 7 states that meet all federal national ambient air quality standards.
  - The lignite industry continues to invest millions of dollars into research and development of carbon capture technology, but EPA's mandated timeline doesn't allow time for development.
  - The final rule needs to be reconciled with efforts to deploy CO<sub>2</sub> capture, utilization and sequestration technologies, not freeze future investments for these technologies.

## What can I do to help?

Attend a public hearing at one of the locations below to learn more and/or provide comments for North Dakota's SIP.

- **Williston Community Library – November 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST**
- **Beulah Civic Center – November 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST**
- **Bismarck State College – November 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST**
- **North Dakota State University Memorial Hall – November 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM CST**