WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced proposed rules dramatically cutting carbon dioxide emissions at the nation's power plants, and Buffalo's top electric utility responded with words of support despite criticism of the proposal from manufacturers nationwide.

Under the proposal – which is aimed at combating climate change – power plants would have to cut their carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent, compared with 2005
levels, by 2030.

“Climate change, fueled by carbon pollution, supercharges risks to our health, our economy and our way of life,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “By leveraging cleaner energy sources and cutting energy waste, this plan will clean the air we breathe while helping slow climate change so we can leave a safe and healthy future for our kids.”

National Grid, which supplies electricity to much of the Buffalo area, was one of several utilities to announce support for the plan today.

“I am strongly encouraged by EPA’s efforts to reduce CO2 emissions through sensible and practical regulation,” said National Grid U.S. President Tom King. “The Obama administration, through the good work of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and her staff, has worked in a transparent manner to craft regulation that promotes environmental and human health through a host of clean energy options.”

The announcement of the proposal begins a public comment period. The EPA is expected to finalize the new power-plant rules by the middle of next year, and then will give the states a year to design plans to implement them.

Environmental groups said the new rules would prompt power plants to shift from coal – which produces more climate-cooking carbon emissions than any other fuel source – to natural gas.

The New York State Public Service Commission late last year approved a plan to convert NRG Energy’s conversion of its Dunkirk power plant from coal to natural gas, and the new EPA proposal indicates that that approval may have saved the plant’s life, just as NRG argued in the debate over the conversion.

Nationwide, though, the new EPA power plant rules are sure to be hugely controversial, fueling assertions that the Obama administration is waging a “war on coal.”

The new rules will be particularly tough on manufacturers in states that rely heavily on coal for their electricity generation, such as those in the Midwest, the National Association of Manufacturers said today.

“As users of one-third of the energy produced in the United States, manufacturers rely on secure and affordable energy to compete in a tough global economy, and recent gains are largely due to the abundance of energy we now enjoy,” said Jay Timmons, president and chief executive officer of the manufacturers group. “Today’s proposal from the EPA could single-handedly eliminate this competitive advantage by removing reliable and abundant sources of energy from our nation’s energy mix.”

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23 Comments

Join the discussion...

James Frederick Smeader  •  a year ago
National Grid's opinion is irrelevant. They no longer supply electrical energy, generate power. NG transmits and distributes electrical power. King's stater sounds like common pandering.

Guest  •  a year ago
Another sign Obama is going to kill or put the the Keystone pipeline in such stranglehold it will be rendered useless.

People have no clue about North Dakota's oil boom of 2006. Basically, the s 1% unemployment rate since it's happened.

Further development in North Dakota along with Canada's recently discover untapped oil fields are on hold because Obama is stalling on the pipeline to sending the oil reserves to the gulf for refining for simply hateful reasons.

He rather drive energy costs to the point that no one can afford to do busy U.S and Canada which this pipeline would help alleviate, and watch 100,000 to waste than risk seeing some rich white people getting richer.

The media never mentions the Keystone pipeline or North Dakota's booming in order to protect Herr Obama from being exposed as the hater obstructionist.

Simone Phillips  •  Guest  •  a year ago
Just wondering - what does the North Dakota oil boom have to do with the Keystone Pipeline which is to be built to carry tar sands oil from Britis

BuffaloB  •  Guest  •  a year ago
Herr Obama ?

Guest  •  BuffaloB  •  a year ago
You prefer Heil Obama ?

Art Weber  •  Guest  •  a year ago
Would you let the pipeline go through your mom's back yard?

Guest  •  Art Weber  •  a year ago
My mother's dead.

Art Weber  •  Guest  •  a year ago
Sorry to hear that.

When deciding on things like a pipeline I can't be for it if want it cutting through mine or my relatives back yard.

Guest  •  Art Weber  •  a year ago
Then you would also have to been opposed to railroads,
They all cut through somebody's land too at one time.

Guest · a year ago
I'm against any new obstructions to my property that was not there when I decided to move in.

David Hiser · a year ago
This is the death knell of what little manufacturing left in this country.
This country in less than 50 yrs. will be irrelevant on a global level.
Mission Accomplished Obama.

Art Weber > Guest · a year ago
Have fun arguing that you like pollution.

David Hiser > Art Weber · a year ago
It is going to be easier than your argument above regarding no never.

Art Weber > David Hiser · a year ago
Never say never but if the cause was to bring water to community that has no water, sacrifices could be made. Your property so a Canadian oil company can make more money when there are already enough oil pipelines seems like a reason to sacrifice anyone's property.

SorensonPA > David Hiser · a year ago
Got a source for that that isn't Fox News, Heritage, Cato, Jim Willis, A or any of the other myopic miscreants too busy keeping their heads fellating the coal and oil industries to look up and notice all the wamis that've been flashing for the last several years?

David Hiser > SorensonPA · a year ago
If you want to call someone out and use your 3rd grade name along with working in the word fellating into your rant (grow up have the balls to put your name on it.

SorensonPA > David Hiser · a year ago
And you know what's a really good way to call someone out posting solid, evidence from a reliable source that sound arguments they're trying to make, as opposed to get tangents about irrelevant issues like a person's forum handle.

David Hiser > SorensonPA · a year ago
you. You did not refute any thing or offer any evidence the contrary. Instead you hid like a coward behind your screen name, called people names and let everyone here know what your favorite act to perform on your friends Nice work. If you want to be taken seriously….GROW UP!

Ralph Wiggum > SorensonPA · a year ago
I'm sure he's getting his information from really reliable sources CNN, NPR, and George Soros. They would never be biased.

David Hiser > Ralph Wiggum · a year ago
Actually it is the US Chamber of Commerce that says this will kill jobs and close power plants. You can google that!

Simone Phillips > Ralph Wiggum · a year ago
It appears Mr. Collins is still licking his wounds having won with such a slim margin, so he held off on signing the pledge here are 5 brave NY -GOPTEA signers of this pledge and matter of time before Collins joins them...

NEW YORK (5)
U.S. Representative Michael Grimm-11th District (Pledge / Release)
U.S. Representative Chris Gibson- 19th District (Pledge / Release)
U.S. Representative Tom Reed- 23rd District (Pledge / Release)
State Senator Greg Ball– 40th District (Pledge / Release)
State Senator Pat Gallivan– 59th District (Pledge / Release)

Simone Phillips > Ralph Wiggum · a year ago
I don't recall the sources you listed (MSNBC, CNN, NPR, and Soros) as having gone to court to argue they have the to you and win their case - as was done by FOX NEWS in 2003 in Florida (Google it if you don't believe me)

BTW - have you seen this:

"No Climate Tax Pledge:
I, ______________________, pledge to the taxpayers of t ______________________ and to the American people that I will oppose any legislation relating to climate change that includes a net increase in government revenue."

It's courtesy of Americans for Prosperity and ..... The Koch Brothers...

Wow... who'd have thunk it?

Any bets if Mr. Collins and Mr. Reed signed this pledge a the one for Grover about no new taxes?