

An Unlawful, Ineffective, Expensive Federal Government Power Grab

CLEAN POWER PLAN (CPP)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was right to propose the repeal of the CPP, a costly regulation that, if allowed to go into effect, would have had a negligible impact on the environment at a great cost to average Americans who need affordable and reliable energy.



81%

of voters believe it is important to maintain the diverse mix of fuels that power America's energy grid – including coal – to preserve the affordability of electricity in the U.S.

– Morning Consult poll, January 2019

It was unworkable. The plan made unrealistic assumptions for replacing affordable and reliable sources of electricity. Its analysis overstated:

- the potential to replace coal-based generation,
- the ability to build required renewable energy and transmission infrastructure in a timely manner, and
- potential energy efficiency gains.

At the same time, it understated the costs of massive grid transformation.

It carried significant costs. Today, approximately 40 percent of American households spend 17 percent of their disposable income on energy-related expenses.¹ Under the CPP, the typical household's annual electricity bills in 2020 would have been more than a third higher than they were in 2012 (an average of \$680 more), with 45 states facing double-digit increases in the cost of electricity.²

It offered negligible benefits. Climate change benefits would have been virtually unmeasurable—with global temperatures reduced by 0.018°C³, atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ reduced by less than 1 percent⁴ and sea level rise reduced by 0.3 millimeters (less than three sheets of paper) by 2050.⁵

It would have weakened grid reliability. The plan was a stunning attempt to remake the nation's electric grid and its requirements may have presented “a significant reliability challenge,” impacting electricity for many states, according to grid overseers such as the North American Electric Reliability Council.⁶

The plan would have prematurely forced 25 percent of low-cost, reliable coal generation capacity off the electric grid, enough to power 24 million homes.

It was unlawful. The plan would have unlawfully restructured the U.S. energy grid. With the Supreme Court's issuance of the stay in February 2016, 29 states stopped work on plans to implement its requirements.

¹ <http://www.americaspower.org/coal-based-electricity/affordable/family-energy-costs/>

² <http://nma.org/index.php/november-19/2390-new-study-shows-cpp-will-add-214-billion-to-wholesale-electricity-prices>

³ <http://www.cato.org/blog/002degc-temperature-rise-averted-vital-number-missing-epas-numbers-fact-sheet>

⁴ <http://www.countoncoal.org/assets/climate-rules/Climate-Rules-Overview.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.americaspower.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Effects%20Issue%20Paper%20June%202014.pdf>

⁶ http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/Potential_Reliability_Impacts_of_EPA_Proposed_CPP_Final.pdf