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## [EPA Plan May End New Coal Power Plants \(/full-blog/2012/07/epa-plan-may-end-new-coal-power-plants.html\)](#)

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Image Source (<http://bauldaroo.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/sce1-natural-gas-power-plants-400x267.jpg>)

By: Roy York, Staff Member

On March, 27, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a 257-page rule that forces new coal-fired power plants to emit the same amount of greenhouse gasses as power plants that burn natural gas.

[1] Some are saying these regulations will end the use of coal as a source of energy in the United States.[2]

The proposed regulations would require new fossil fuel-fired power plants that produce more than 25 megawatts to meet an output-based standard of 1,000 pounds of CO2 per megawatt-hour. This standard is based on the performance of natural gas technology.[3] The EPA stressed that these regulations only apply to new plants and would not affect existing plants.[4] Further, the regulations would not apply to plants that will begin construction in the next 12 months.[5]

The EPA said new natural gas electric plants would have no trouble meeting the new guidelines with existing technology, but coal-fired plants would need to implement new technology such as carbon capture to reduce their emissions below the threshold.[6] This news has garnered reactions from environmental activists and coal supporters.[7] Some have been critical of the political implications of the move, and have accused President Obama of wanting to end the use of coal in the United States.[8]

Feedback on the document is requested within 60 days of the publication of the proposed rule, and the EPA will hold public hearings on the proposal within 60 days of the publication of the proposed rules.[9] The EPA will make a final decision on the regulations later this year.

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[1] Environmental Protection Agency, *Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units*, 1-2, available at <http://epa.gov/carbonpollutionstandards/pdfs/20120327proposal.pdf>.

[2] Debra McCown, *Southwest Virginia coal proponents critical of EPA's proposed new power plant regulations*, TRICITIES.COM, April 2, 2012, available at <http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2012/apr/02/southwest-virginia-coal-proponents-critical-epas-p-ar-1810907/>.

[3] Environmental Protection Agency, *Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units*, 2, available at <http://epa.gov/carbonpollutionstandards/pdfs/20120327proposal.pdf>.

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] Andrew Restuccia and Ben Geman, *EPA proposes first-ever greenhouse gas regulations for new power plants*, THE HILL, March 27, 2012, available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/c2-wire/c2-wire/218411-epa-unveils-long-awaited-climate-rules-for-new-power-plants>.

[7] *See Id.*

[8] Debra McCown, *Southwest Virginia coal proponents critical of EPA's proposed new power plant regulations*, TrCitie.com, April 2, 2012, available at <http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2012/apr/02/southwest-virginia-coal-proponents-critical-epas-p-ar-1810907/>.

[9] Environmental Protection Agency, *Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units*, 7-8, available at <http://epa.gov/carbonpollutionstandard/pdfs/20120327proposal.pdf>.

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