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## **Ohio EPA Comments on U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan**

### **Background**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) proposed its Clean Power Plan in June with the goal of reducing carbon emissions from existing electric power plants. Under the proposed rules, which the U.S. EPA asserts it has the authority to issue under the Clean Air Act, Ohio would be required to reduce power plant carbon emissions by 29 percent by 2030 from 2012 emission levels.

U.S. EPA invited comment from the public on its proposed rule through Dec. 1 and then will issue a final rule in June 2015. States would be required to submit compliance plans by June 2016.

### **Ohio EPA's Comments Are Based on Public Comment and Technical Analysis**

In preparing its comments on the U.S. EPA's proposed rule, the Ohio EPA and Public Utility Commission of Ohio held public meetings to get input from Ohioans. Both agencies also conducted significant analysis of the proposed rules to determine how it would impact the state's electricity infrastructure and economy. Ohio EPA and the PUCO filed those comments with U.S. EPA on Mon., Dec. 1 and they can be viewed here: Ohio EPA's comments can be viewed at <http://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/111drule.aspx>.

### **Highlights of Ohio EPA's Comments**

- **The Targets Are Unachievable:** The proposed 6 percent increase in efficiency which U.S. EPA's proposed rules seeks to impose on existing power plants is unachievable, especially for Ohio's fleet of coal-fired power plants which have already installed advanced air pollution control equipment and efficiency improvements.
  - U.S. EPA's proposed 6 percent heat rate improvement for coal-fired power plants is based on a study (Sargent & Lundy) whose authors have said is being misused by U.S. EPA.
  - U.S. EPA makes errors in its analysis of Ohio's generation capacity and potential for improvements at individual plants,
  - There are fundamental flaws in US EPA's heat rate improvement justification and feasibility analysis that render its target reductions for Ohio inaccurate.
- **Technical Flaws in Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Proposal:** U.S. EPA's consideration of the impact of renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts is technically flawed and contributes to its unachievable targets for carbon emissions reductions.

- Power Plant Reliability Would Suffer: U.S. EPA’s proposal that Ohio’s natural gas power plants should run 70 percent of the time is impractical. Many of those plants are not designed or permitted for such a high level of operation and would need costly upgrades—which would be paid for by Ohio’s residential and business ratepayers.
- Not Enough Time, Even if Targets Were Realistic: Even if U.S. EPA’s targets were technically achievable and economically feasible, the rule does not give states enough time to make the necessary changes that would result in such significant carbon emissions reductions.

### **Ohio EPA Public Statement**

The following statement is attributable to Ohio EPA Spokesperson Heidi Griesmer:

“Ohio EPA has an obligation to be good stewards of the environment, and we support having a robust energy policy that is protective of air quality and public health. However, U.S. EPA’s proposed Clean Power Plan is technically flawed, not legal and unworkable in its current form.”