

Talking Points for the EPA Public Hearing on the Clean Air Transport Rule

August 19, 2010 – Chicago, IL



You can make the case for cleaner air. Tell EPA what you think. Here's how to comment:

- **Speak at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Public Hearing**

A public hearing is scheduled for August 19, 2010, in Chicago from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be a lunch break from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and a dinner break from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. during the hearing.

Location: Wyndham Chicago, Grand Ballroom, Salon C, 633 North St. Clair, Chicago IL 60611. Telephone: 312-573-0300.

Email Pamela Long at EPA to register as a presenter at long.pam@epa.gov by 5 p.m. August 17, 2010. She will help you schedule a convenient time for you to speak. You will only have five minutes of time to speak.

- **Send in written comments**

Email comments to: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. **Be sure to put** "Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0491" in the subject line.

Or mail comments to: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0491, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

For more information go to <http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/actions.html#jul10>.

Essentials:

- **Coal-fired power plants are among the biggest polluters, especially in the Midwest. Power plant pollution kills people. The risk of death and disease caused by coal-fired power plant pollution threatens the millions of people who live here.**
- **The cleanup of power plants is long overdue. Illinois stepped up to start cleaning up their own power plants, but Illinois cannot stop the pollution that blows into our state from other states. We need EPA to help us clean the air we breathe.**

- **We support the proposed EPA “Transport Rule” because it will reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution that create ozone smog and particle pollution that blows into our state. This will improve the health of millions of people at risk from these pollutants, especially seniors, children and people with chronic lung diseases and cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes.**
- **We also need to cut pollution that our power plants are sending to other states, too. We need to be good neighbors.**
- **However, we call on EPA to strengthen the rule. We need to have even greater reductions in the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions that create deadly ozone and fine particle pollution.**

Talking Points for Activists:

If you can, tell a personal story about someone you know who suffers from asthma or another respiratory problem that is made worse by air pollution. You can also speak about your personal concern about family members or older adults who work or exercise outdoors since they also are at risk.

The EPA is proposing a new rule that will require coal-fired power plants to **clean up their emissions and reduce the transportation of pollution into other states**. The new rule, called the Transport rule, would require 31 states and the District of Columbia to reduce their coal power plant emissions.

This Transport Rule does what we cannot do: require power plants that are spewing toxic pollution into our state to clean up their act. Too many times pollution comes into our state. Air at the state line is already too polluted. Illinois has a strong power plant clean up rule. This would apply a similar rule to other states so that pollution from Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri and even parts of the south won't spread into our state.

The pollution comes from all over the country. The EPA's analysis identifies 10 states that send pollution to Cook County, using evidence captured in the County's own air monitors. Not only Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, but Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and even Pennsylvania and West Virginia send ozone and particles into Cook County. This rule would require that plants in 31 states—including Illinois—cut pollution they send across state lines. Other parts of Illinois also get pollution from power plants as far away as Alabama.

Cleaning up dirty power plants is essential to protect health, since the particle pollution and ozone smog they produce can kill. The new EPA rule will require companies to install modern pollution control technology to reduce harmful pollutants caused by coal power plants.

Specifically by 2014 the new EPA rule will have enormous public health benefits. The reduced pollution will:

- Save 14,000 – 36,000 lives **each year**
- Prevent 26,000 hospital and ER admissions **each year**
- Prevent 240,000 asthma attacks **each year**

- And much, much more

The benefits of cleaning up these pollutants—especially the public health benefits—far outweigh the costs. By 2014, the annual benefits will be between 42 to 103 times greater than the costs. EPA estimates the annual benefits at \$120 to \$290 billion, while the annual compliance costs are \$2.8 billion, using 2006 dollars. The benefits include thousands of lives saved. We can't afford NOT to do this.

Burning coal produces particle pollution, which are microscopic bits and aerosols that include ash, soot and toxic chemicals. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide when released into the atmosphere, form the fine particles that people inhale deep into the lungs. Those particles can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and early death. **By 2014, the rule will decrease sulfur dioxide pollution by 72 percent and nitrogen oxide pollution by 52 percent.** These two particles bypass the human body's natural defenses and can lodge deep within the lungs, causing harm to human health.

However, EPA can do even more and should. EPA should set a much tighter national limit on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions. EPA needs to require even greater clean up. The control technology is widely available and very effective. The investment in cleaning up even more means that we see even greater benefits, including more lives saved each year.

Power plants produce nitrogen dioxide, a key raw ingredient that forms the heavy burden Chicago has from ozone smog. Ozone pollution is a serious health threat. Ozone burns our lungs and airways, causing them to become inflamed, reddened, and swollen. Children, senior citizens, and people with respiratory disease are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of ozone. When inhaled even at low levels, ozone can cause chest pain and cough, aggravate asthma, reduce lung function, increase emergency room visits and hospital admissions for respiratory problems, and lead to irreversible lung damage.

This step will improve the health of Americans, especially those who are our most vulnerable populations including seniors, children and those with chronic lung ailments. It also will help those with chronic heart disease and diabetes because particle pollution puts them at risk for heart attacks and stroke.

Talking Points for Health Professionals

If possible, try to tell a story about a patient you treated who suffered from asthma or another respiratory problem that is made worse by air pollution.

These pollutants threaten my patients' health. Ozone is a powerful oxidant that can burn our lungs and airways, causing them to become inflamed, reddened, and swollen. Children, teenagers, senior citizens, and people with lung diseases like asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and others are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of ozone. Ozone exposure may lead to shortness of breath, chest pain, wheezing and coughing, increased risk of asthma attacks, and even premature death. Particulate matter

produced by these power plants bypasses the body's natural defenses and lodges inside the lungs. Particle pollution can worsen asthma, cause heart attacks and strokes, and can kill.

People with heart and lung disease (including asthma), people with diabetes, children, teens and senior citizens are most vulnerable to the effects of particle pollution. They may cough, or have asthma attacks, irregular heartbeats or even heart attacks and strokes. Research shows that people with chronic respiratory diseases like asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, diabetes and cardiovascular disease are at an increased risk of death when particle pollution is high. Studies have linked particle pollution to asthma attacks, lung cancer, heart attacks and strokes.

The more we learn about air pollution, the more we understand how dangerous it is. EPA estimates that by cleaning up these power plants, we can save the lives of between 14,000 and 36,000 people each year. Some of those people could be my patients.

However, EPA can do even more and should. EPA should set a much tighter national limit on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions. EPA needs to require even greater clean up. The control technology is widely available and very effective. The investment in cleaning up even more means that we see even greater benefits, including more lives saved each year.

We urge EPA to move forward on this.

Talking Points for Individuals / Families affected by lung disease

Try and tell a personal story about the affect of poor air quality on your personal health or one of your family members.

Ozone and particle pollution are serious threat to individuals and families. Ozone burns our lungs and airways, causing them to become inflamed, reddened and swollen. Particles lodge deep inside the lungs where they threaten our breathing, our hearts and our lives. Children, senior citizens, and people with lung disease, cardiovascular disease and diabetes are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of pollution and ozone. Even healthy adults who work or exercise outdoors can be harmed.

Cleaning up power plants is critically important because **particle pollution and ozone smog cause coughing and wheezing, trigger asthma attacks**, send people to the emergency room and cause heart attacks and strokes, as well as premature death.

However, EPA can do even more and should. EPA should set a much tighter national limit on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions. EPA needs to require even greater clean up. The control technology is widely available and very effective. The investment in cleaning up even more means that we see even greater benefits, including more lives saved each year.