



WV Coal Association Statement on EPA's Proposed Rule to Limit Carbon Emissions from Power Plants

Charleston, WV - Chris Hamilton, President and CEO of the West Virginia Coal Association offered the following statement regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's announcement today of a proposed new rule to limit carbon emissions from coal and gas-fired power plants:

“Make no mistake, the rules announced by EPA today are specifically designed to shut down West Virginia’s nine coal-fired power plants and many more across this nation. This is a continuation and escalation of the national Democratic Party’s decades-long War on Coal and threatens the livelihood of tens of thousands of West Virginians.

Ideology doesn’t manufacture megawatts. Coal does.

Despite numerous recent announcements from regional grid operators, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and energy experts forecasting that the amount of planned electric generation retirements exceed

the amount of potential new generation able to be brought online, the EPA recklessly continues to march America off a cliff.

What EPA is doing is economic suicide. West Virginians will lose jobs. Americans will continue to pay increasingly more expensive power bills. Our nation's electric system will become even more unreliable. And energy security in the United States will become more dependent on foreign countries and potentially foreign adversaries.

A diverse energy mix that is supported by coal-powered plants, not in place of them, is crucial to ensuring all Americans can afford to keep their homes heated and lit. Until we recognize the need for an energy policy reset, we can expect our energy situation to remain unstable and potentially poised to fail us when we need it most.”

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.