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Contact: Derek Sylvan | (212) 998-6085 | derek.sylvan@nyu.edu

STATEMENT ON THE EPA’S REPLACEMENT OF THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

Today, the EPA released its final “Affordable Clean Energy Rule,” replacing the Clean Power Plan with a set of far weaker emissions standards for power plants. The approach used in the final rule is inconsistent with science, economics, and regulatory practice by administrations of both parties over several decades.

Richard Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at NYU School of Law and director of the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“With this rule, the EPA is dodging its responsibility. The agency is required to control greenhouse gas pollution with the ‘best system of emission reduction,’ but this approach is nowhere close, making the rule legally vulnerable. While Americans face mounting threats from climate change, the Trump administration is undermining environmental safeguards and manipulating its math to conceal the damage it is causing.”

Related Resources:

- The Institute for Policy Integrity’s comments to EPA on the proposed version of this rule.
- A report from the Institute for Policy Integrity revealing that the costs of complying with the Clean Power Plan would likely be far lower than anticipated, due to changes in the electric sector since the rule was issued.
- An article offering a detailed examination of regulatory precedents for the Clean Power Plan, showing that the rule is consistent with regulatory practices of both parties dating back several decades.
• Our report analyzing claims from the September 2016 oral argument in litigation over the Clean Power Plan, which highlights that there is substantial precedent for “beyond-the-fenceline” pollution reduction measures.

• Our analysis of how the EPA addressed statutory boundaries in the design of the Clean Power Plan, explicitly acknowledging and respecting each of the constraints on EPA’s regulatory authority in Clean Air Act Section 111.

• A New York Times op-ed by Richard Revesz and Jack Lienke on the economic manipulations that the EPA used to make repealing the Clean Power Plan appear justified.

• An academic article by Richard Revesz and Kimberly Castle on environmental standards, thresholds, and the role that benefits from particulate matter reductions play in the Clean Power Plan and other regulations.

Revesz and other members of our staff are available for interviews on this matter.

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The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.