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STATEMENT ON NEW MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FINDING

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to restore the legal basis for landmark Obama-era limits on mercury and other hazardous pollutants from coal-fired power plants by reestablishing the “appropriate and necessary” determination for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS).

Richard Revesz, AnBryce Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at New York University School of Law, where he directs the Institute for Policy Integrity, issued the following statement:

“In taking this important step, EPA emphasizes the significant neurocognitive and other direct benefits of mercury reduction. The agency also recognizes that limiting pollutants targeted by MATS inevitably curbs other pollutants like particulate matter as well, leading to enormous public health co-benefits. By considering both direct and indirect benefits in this decision, EPA revives analytic best practices cast aside by the Trump administration. The newly restored approach is endorsed by the Office of Management and Budget’s longstanding guidance and by all respectable economists and, prior to the Trump administration, had been the norm in both Republican and Democratic administrations for decades.”

Revesz is available for interviews on this issue.

Related Resources:

- An [op-ed on the inconsistencies behind reversal of the “appropriate and necessary” finding](#) (April 2020)
- [Comments to EPA’s Science Advisory Board on the analysis of MATS](#) (January 2020)
- [Michael Livermore’s testimony on related issues to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#) (May 2019)
- [Comments to EPA on the reconsideration of MATS](#) (April 2019)
- An [op-ed analyzing EPA’s flawed MATS co-benefit claims](#) (March 2019)
- An academic article on the relevant co-benefit issues: [Environmental Standards, Thresholds, and the Next Battle Ground of Climate Change Regulations](#) (February 2019)
- Our [D.C. Circuit brief](#) in litigation over MATS (January 2017)
- Our [Supreme Court brief](#) in litigation over MATS (March 2015)

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