

**FACT SHEET**  
**CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED POWER PLANTS**  
**FINAL RULE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**Summary**

*On April 25, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced final carbon pollution standards for existing coal-fired and new gas-fired power plants that will secure important climate benefits and protect public health. These rules will significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing coal-fired power plants and from new natural gas turbines, ensuring that all long-term coal-fired plants and base load new gas-fired plants control 90% of their carbon pollution. Existing coal-fired power plants are the largest source of GHGs from the power sector. New natural gas-fired combustion turbines are some of the largest new sources of GHG being built today and these final standards will ensure that they are constructed to minimize their GHG emissions.*

*Consistent with EPA's traditional approach to establishing pollution standards under the Clean Air Act, the final limits and emission guidelines are based on proven pollution control technologies that can be applied directly to power plants and can achieve substantial reductions in carbon pollution at reasonable cost. Emission guidelines for the longest-running existing coal units and performance standards for new base load combustion turbines are based on the use of carbon capture and sequestration/storage (CCS) – an available and cost-effective control technology that can be applied directly to power plants.*

**Consideration of Environmental Justice**

- Advancing environmental justice is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and for EPA. During this rulemaking, EPA conducted extensive outreach with interested parties including Tribal nations and communities with environmental justice concerns. EPA took this feedback into account in its development of these final actions, carefully considered the concerns raised by these stakeholders, and evaluated how these rules will affect communities with environmental justice concerns.
- This rule will significantly reduce GHGs and move us a step closer to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, which is already having a disproportionate impact on communities with environmental justice concerns.
  - Over the years 2024-2047, EPA estimates \$270 billion in climate benefits.
- Multiple health-harming air pollutants will also be reduced nationwide. EPA's modeling found that in all future modeled year scenarios, all demographic groups will be exposed to lower PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone concentrations than today.
  - EPA analysis indicates that future baseline ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations will decline substantially relative to today's levels.
  - Relative to these low future baseline levels, ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations will decrease further in virtually all areas of the country due to the rule, although some areas of the country may experience slower or faster rates of decline due to the changes in generation and utilization resulting from these rules.

- Several environmental justice organizations and community representatives raised significant concerns about the potential health, environmental, and safety impacts of CCS. The Agency agrees that that CCS should be deployed in a manner that is protective of public health, safety, and the environment, and has carefully considered these concerns as it finalized its determinations of the BSERs for these rules.
- It is important to note that the Carbon Pollution Standards are performance standards and do not require the installation or operation of any particular technology. Individual owners and operators will decide how best to meet the requirements laid out in the rule.
- Where power companies do install and operate CCS, a robust and evolving regulatory framework exists to address concerns related to sequestration/storage, CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline safety, and the potential for localized increases in air emissions.
- Multiple Federal agencies have responsibility for regulating and permitting CCS projects, along with state and tribal governments. EPA is committed to implementing its programs and working with federal partners to ensure that where CCS is deployed, it is implemented in a way that considers community input and is protective of public health, safety, and the environment.
- This existing regulatory framework includes multiple provisions to safeguard the sequestration and storage of CO<sub>2</sub>:
  - EPA regulation of geologic sequestration wells under the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program of the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA recently published guidance specifically addressing how UIC programs, including states, can incorporate environmental justice considerations into the permitting process. Additionally, UIC well owners and operators should consider this guidance when developing permit applications.
  - Required reporting and public disclosure of geologic sequestration activity, as well as implementation of rigorous monitoring, reporting, and verification of geologic sequestration under the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP).
- The EPA believes that CO<sub>2</sub> can be safely transported by pipeline. The safety of existing and new CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines that transport CO<sub>2</sub> in a supercritical state is regulated by PHMSA. In anticipation of an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline buildout, PHMSA recently initiated a rulemaking to strengthen CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline safety and oversight.
- Protective regulations also exist to reduce the risks of localized increases in air emissions.
  - The New Source Review (NSR) permitting program would review the increases for consistency with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and potentially require additional controls. The EPA plans to review and update as needed its guidance on NSR permitting, specifically with respect to Best Available Control Technology determinations for GHG emissions and consideration of co-pollutant increases from sources installing CCS.
  - The EPA expects facility owners, states, permitting authorities, and other responsible parties will use these protections to address co-pollutant impacts in situations where individual units use CCS to comply with these emission guidelines.

- The EPA is committed to engaging with all stakeholders on opportunities to ensure that deployment of CCS is done in a responsible manner.
- Each state will ultimately be responsible for determining the future operation of fossil fuel-fired steam generating units located within its jurisdiction. EPA’s meaningful engagement requirements will allow interested stakeholders to have an opportunity to have their concerns heard as states make decisions about appropriate compliance approaches for existing steam electric generating units.
  - To assist states and stakeholders in considering options for state plans, the EPA developed a unit-level proximity analysis that includes information about the population within 5, 10, and 50 kilometers of each EGU covered by this rule. This analysis includes information about air emissions from each facility, and the potential emission implications of installing CCS. This resource is available in the docket.
- EPA believes that meaningful engagement provisions, together with the robust and evolving regulatory framework, can facilitate the deployment of CCS in a manner that is protective of public health, safety, and the environment.
- For More Information
  - Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule from [Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants](#).