

FACT SHEET
CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED POWER PLANTS
FINAL RULE
TRIBES

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.

Tribes

- EPA is aware of two existing power plants within tribal jurisdictions that are potentially affected by this final rule. They are:
 - Four Corners Steam Electricity Station on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Four Corners has announced that these units will retire in 2031. This facility is located within New Mexico's boundaries.
 - Bonanza, a coal-fired unit on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Bonanza has announced plans to retire its units in 2030. This facility is located within Utah’s boundaries.
- Under the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR) adopted by EPA, tribes may seek authority to implement a plan under CAA section 111(d) in a manner similar to a state. Tribes may, but are not required to, seek approval for treatment like a state to develop a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) to implement the emission guidelines. If a tribe obtains approval and submits a TIP, EPA will generally use similar criteria and follow similar procedures as those described for state plans when evaluating the TIP submission and will approve the TIP if appropriate.
- EPA is committed to working with eligible tribes to help them seek authorization and develop plans if they choose. Tribes that choose to develop plans will generally have the same flexibilities available to states in this process. If a tribe does not seek and obtain the

authority from the EPA to establish a TIP, EPA has the authority to establish a Federal CAA section 111(d) plan for areas of Indian country where designated facilities are located. A Federal plan would apply to all designated facilities located in the areas of Indian country covered by the Federal plan unless and until the EPA approves a TIP applicable to those facilities.

- EPA's emission guidelines for existing fossil fuel-fired steam generating units require states and/or tribes to undertake meaningful engagement with pertinent stakeholders, including communities that are most affected by and vulnerable to impacts from these electric generating units (EGUs). This ensures that the priorities, concerns and perspectives of these communities are heard during the planning process.
- In some cases, an affected EGU in a state may be located near tribal boundaries and impact communities in neighboring states or tribal lands. In such cases, EPA believes it could be reasonable for a state or tribe to identify pertinent stakeholders in the neighboring state or tribal land and to work with the relevant air pollution control authority to conduct meaningful engagement that addresses cross-border impacts.
- Meaningful engagement requirements are intended to ensure that the perspectives, priorities and concerns of affected communities are included in the process of establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing EGUs, including decisions about compliance strategies and compliance flexibilities that may be included in a tribal or state plan.

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](#)