

Fact Sheet

EPA is finalizing an action to ensure affordable, dependable energy for American families and restore American energy dominance. The agency is repealing the Biden Administration’s 2024 amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units (EGUs) – a rule commonly known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants, or simply MATS. Americans will see the expected \$670 million in regulatory compliance costs savings in the form of lower costs of transportation, heating, utilities, farming, and manufacturing, and more reliable energy.

Final Rule: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Final Repeal

Action Taken by Trump EPA

- On February 19, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the repeal of the Biden administration’s 2024 Mercury and Air Toxics (MATS) rule that amended the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units (EGUs) (2012 MATS rule).
- EPA continues enforcing existing, highly effective, and robust 2012 MATS rule requirements, ensuring the public health and the environment are protected without compromising America’s energy or economic prosperity.
- Relieves all facilities of the unnecessary 2024 filterable particulate matter (fPM) emission standard for coal-fired EGUs, the tighter mercury standard for lignite-fired EGUs, and the requirement to use PM Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS). Returning certainty to industry without compromising public health or the environment.

Proven Results of Mercury Standards

- The 2012 MATS rule has driven sharp reductions in harmful air toxic pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants. Emissions data show:
 - 2021 mercury emissions from coal-fired EGUs were 90 percent lower than pre-MATS levels;
 - Since 2010, acid gas HAP emissions have been reduced by over 96 percent; and
 - Emissions of the non-mercury metals – including nickel, arsenic, and lead – have been reduced by more than 81 percent.
- In 2020, EPA determined the 2012 standards protected public health with an ample margin of safety and that changes were not “necessary” because there were no cost-effective developments in control technology.
- The Biden-Harris Administration reaffirmed the 2020 Residual Risk Review and did not reopen it.
- The Biden EPA’s 2024 MATS Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) states:
 - “All the exposure results generated as part of the 2020 Residual Risk analysis were below the presumptive acceptable cancer risk threshold and noncancer health-based thresholds.”
 - “In general, EPA believes that exposures at or below the RfD are unlikely to be associated with appreciable risk of deleterious effects.”

- “These results [from the 2020 Residual Risk analysis] suggest that residual risks from HAP exposure are low.” Simply put, the Biden EPA agreed that the 2012 MATS Rule provided an ample margin of safety to protect public health and prevent adverse environmental effects.
- While the Biden EPA did not make any changes to emission standards as part of the risk review, they did propose and ultimately revise the standards outlined above as part of a Technology Review.
- In the 2024 rule, the Biden EPA did not monetize or assign a monetary value to the reduction of the hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) including: mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium, nickel, and cadmium.
 - These are the direct HAPs that the MATS standards regulate.

Background

- This Biden-era regulation contributed to significant regulatory uncertainty, especially for coal plants in Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
- **Technology review:** Under CAA section 112(d)(6), EPA is required to “review, and revise as necessary (taking into account developments in practices, processes, and control technologies), emission standards promulgated under this section no less often than every 8 years.”
- **Residual risk review:** In addition, CAA section 112(f)(2) requires EPA to review residual risk within 8 years after promulgation of standards to ensure the standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect human health or to prevent an adverse environmental effect. Here, EPA must determine if more health-protective standards are necessary.
- EPA may propose and finalize revised standards, if necessary, based on the results of the risk and/or technology review (RTR).

Savings and Prosperity for Americans

- EPA’s action is expected to save \$670 million starting in 2028 through 2037.
- These savings equate to at least \$78 million annually.
- The RIA for EPA’s final action can be found [here](#).

For More Information

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule, RIA, and fact sheet from EPA’s website at [Mercury and Air Toxics Standards](#).
- This action and other background information are also available online at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794.