

NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

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NEW YORK CITY JOINS COALITION OF 25 STATES, CITIES & COUNTIES IN DEFENSE OF EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN

Coalition Cites Critical Need For Rules In Order To Protect The Public, Environment, & Grow Our Economies

NEW YORK--Corporation Counsel Zachary W. Carter announced today that New York City is joining a coalition of 25 states, cities and counties filing a motion to intervene to defend the federal Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean Power Plan" against legal challenge. The coalition's motion to intervene in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit responds to suits that several states and industry groups have filed challenging the rule. The Clean Power Plan rule, issued under the Clean Air Act, requires fossil-fueled power plants, the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the nation, to cut their emissions. This most recent action continues New York City's longstanding efforts to spur EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions on the national level and to defend those regulatory actions in court.

Corporation Counsel Carter said: "My office is pleased to join the multi-state, city and county effort to defend EPA's common-sense plan to further cut power plant emissions." These important rules are firmly based in law and in science, and give government the critical tools it needs to protect our environment well into the future. My office looks forward to defending EPA's plan to further the best interests of public health."

The EPA adopted the Clean Power Plan through a multi-year stakeholder process that drew heavily on the experience of states and utilities in reducing power plant greenhouse gas emissions.

The finalization of the Clean Power Plan marks the culmination of a decade-long effort by states and cities to require mandatory cuts in the emissions of climate change pollution from fossil fuel burning power plants under the Clean Air Act. The Clean Power Plan, along with the companion rule on new, modified, and reconstructed power plants, will control these emissions by setting limits on the amount of climate change pollution that power plants can emit. The rule for existing plants is expected to eliminate as much climate change pollution as is emitted by more than 160 million cars a year – or 70% of the nation's passenger cars.

The Attorneys General of New York, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, the District of Columbia, the City of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boulder, South Miami, and Broward County (FL) have all joined the coalition.

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