

EPA POWER PLANT RULE REPEAL

Robert Christopher
Associate Energy and Air Quality Planner

CEEPC
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What Has Happened

- Partial repeal of the 2024 Carbon Pollution Standards for fossil-fuel power plants — finalized by EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, September 14, 2026, at a G20 meeting in Houston
- Companion proposal (not yet final): rescind EPA's Section 111 authority to regulate power-plant GHGs at all
- Third consecutive federal power-plant carbon rule repealed before taking effect — legal basis: West Virginia v. EPA (SCOTUS, 2022)
- Does not touch mercury / air toxics standards (MATS) — separate action

Projected Impact

- Environmental Defense Fund: >\$1T health costs, >80,000 deaths, >\$1.8T climate damages (through 2047)
- Resources for the Future: \$157B–\$476B in PM2.5 health damages
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy: \$76B–\$130B health costs vs. \$10B–\$19B compliance savings
- Local impacts will have to be modeled by appropriate agencies and are not currently available.

How We Got Here

- 3rd repeal:** Third consecutive federal power-plant carbon rule repealed or vacated before taking effect (Clean Power Plan → Affordable Clean Energy Rule → 2024 rule)
- 2022:** West Virginia v. EPA (SCOTUS, 6-3) bars EPA's "generation-shifting" approach to power-plant regulation — the legal basis EPA cites now
- 2024:** Biden EPA finalizes the standards now repealed — required ~90% carbon capture at coal and heavily-utilized new gas plants, compliance due 2032
- Feb–Sep 2026:** Endangerment finding rescinded (Feb), removing the broader legal foundation; final repeal signed September 14

What The Repeal Doesn't Impact

- State-level power-plant requirements are a separate backstop this action doesn't remove
 - States could impose their own version of the rule.
 - This could lower emissions long term if not challenged by the administration.
 - This is complicated by the fact that the region is in PJM and state efforts would not impact emissions from electricity generated in PJM but outside of DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Robert Christopher

Associate Energy and Air Quality Planner
rchristopher@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments