Obama’s War On Coal Is Official

Obama Opens A New Front In His Ongoing War On Coal By Unveiling Job-Killing Regulations On New Coal Plants

TODAY, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED NEW REGULATIONS ON NEW COAL PLANTS


**Today, The Obama Administration Announced The “First Federal Carbon Limits On The Nation’s Power Companies.”** “The Obama administration on Friday announced that it was not backing down from a confrontation with the coal industry and would press ahead with enacting the first federal carbon limits on the nation’s power companies.” (Michael Shear, “Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits,” *The New York Times*, 9/20/13)

The Regulations Are “An Aggressive Move By Mr. Obama” That Will “Bypass Congress.” “The proposed regulations, announced at the National Press Club by Gina McCarthy, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, are an aggressive move by Mr. Obama to bypass Congress on climate change with executive actions he promised in his inaugural address this year.” (Michael Shear, “Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits,” *The New York Times*, 9/20/13)

**THE NEW REGULATIONS “PUT THE SQUEEZE” ON OUR NATION’S COAL INDUSTRY**


“EPA’s Proposal Would Put The Squeeze On Coal.” “While it won’t affect existing plants, EPA’s proposal would put the squeeze on coal: Any coal-burning power plant built in the future would be limited to 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour of CO2 emissions, according to McCarthy’s planned speech.” (Erica Martinson, “Coal In President Obama’s Climate Crosshairs,” *Politico*, 9/19/13)

“The Rule Packs The Same Punch As One Announced Last Year.” “Despite some tweaks, the rule packs the same punch as one announced last year, which was widely criticized by industry and by Republicans as effectively banning any new coal-fired power plants.” (Dina Cappiello, “Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits,” *The Associated Press*, 9/20/13)
The New Regulations Will Force The Coal-Fired Plants To Rely On “A Technology That’s Still Unproven.” “The limits on future coal plants are stringent enough that utilities will likely only be able to new coal-fired facilities if the plants can capture their carbon emissions and bury them underground, a technology that’s still unproven.” In theory, this could mean a moratorium on all new coal plants for decades to come.” (Brad Plumer, “Will Coal Survive The EPA’s New Carbon Rules?” The Washington Post, 9/20/13)

- New Coal Plants Would Have To Install “Expensive Technology” But No Coal-Fired Plants Have Done That “In Large Part Because Of The Cost.” “That’s because to meet the standard, new coal-fired power plants would need to install expensive technology to capture carbon dioxide and bury it underground. No coal-fired power plant has done that yet, in large part because of the cost.” (Dina Cappiello, “Obama Takes On Coal With First-Ever Carbon Limits,” The Associated Press, 9/20/13)

- “A State-Of-The-Art Coal Plant Would Have To Employ Expensive And Thus-Far Uncommonly Used Technologies To Capture Around 40 Percent Of Its Carbon Emissions.” “That means a state-of-the-art coal plant would have to employ expensive and thus-far uncommonly used technologies to capture around 40 percent of its carbon emissions.” (Erica Martinson, “Coal In President Obama’s Climate Crosshairs,” Politico, 9/19/13)

THE REGULATIONS WILL BE DEVASTATING FOR COAL-PRODUCING STATES

The Regulations “Are Expected To Have Far-Reaching Implications For Coal States Such As Kentucky.” “Together, they are expected to have far-reaching implications for coal states such as Kentucky, which ranks third nationally in coal production and uses coal to generate more than 90 percent of the state’s electricity.” (James Bruggers, “EPA Unveils Tougher Pollution Limits For New Power Plants,” The Louisville, KYI Courier-Journal, 9/20/13)

The New Regulations Will Put “More Pressure On Kentucky’s Reeling Coal Industry.” “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday unveiled a reworked set of regulations aimed at slashing pollution levels from new power plants — simultaneously putting more pressure on Kentucky’s reeling coal industry.” (James Bruggers, “EPA Unveils Tougher Pollution Limits For New Power Plants,” The Louisville, KYI Courier-Journal, 9/20/13)

“Indiana Could Also Be Greatly Affected.” “Indiana could also be greatly affected. It relies on coal for about 80 percent of its electricity and, according to the National Mining Association, ranks eighth in coal production.” (James Bruggers, “EPA Unveils Tougher Pollution Limits For New Power Plants,” The Louisville, KYI Courier-Journal, 9/20/13)

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): “Today’s Announcement ... Is Direct Evidence That This Administration Is Trying To Hold The Coal Industry To Impossible Standards.” “Today’s announcement ... is direct evidence that this Administration is trying to hold the coal industry to impossible standards,’ said Senator Joe Manchin, a Democrat from the coal producing state of West Virginia.” (Valerie Volcovici, “U.S. EPA Sets First-Ever Curbs On Power Plant Pollution,” Reuters, 9/20/13)

- Manchin: The New Regulations “Will Have Devastating Impacts To The Coal Industry And Our Economy.” “‘Never before has the federal government forced an industry to do something that is technologically impossible,’ said Senator Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat. ‘Forcing coal to meet the same emissions standards as gas when experts know that the required technology is not operational on a commercial scale makes absolutely no sense and will have devastating impacts to the coal industry and our economy.’” (Mark Drajem, “New Coal Plants Must Limit Carbon Pollution Under Epa Regulation,” Bloomberg Businessweek, 9/20/13)

OBAMA AND BIDEN ARE FINALLY GETTING THE WAR ON COAL THEY HAVE PUSHED FOR SINCE 2008
While Campaigning For President In 2008, Obama Said That His Cap-And-Trade Program Would Bankrupt New Coal-Powered Plants. **Obama:** “So, if somebody wants to build a coal plant, they can — it’s just that it will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that’s being emitted.” *(Sen. Barack Obama, [Interview With The San Francisco Chronicle's Editorial Board](https://www.gop.com), 1/17/08)*

**Vice President Biden In 2008: “No Coal Plants Here In America.”** *(Joe Biden, [Remarks At A Campaign Event, Maumee, OH, 9/16/08]*)

- **Biden:** “[W]e’re Not Supporting Clean Coal.” *(Joe Biden, [Remarks At A Campaign Event, Maumee, OH, 9/16/08]*)

**Harvard University’s Daniel P. Schrag, One Of Obama’s Advisers On Climate Change, Said “A War On Coal Is Exactly What’s Needed.”** "Daniel P. Schrag, a geochemist who is the head of Harvard University’s Center for the Environment and a member of a presidential science panel that has helped advise the White House on climate change, said he hoped the presidential speech would mark a turning point in the national debate on climate change. ‘Everybody is waiting for action,’ he said. ‘The one thing the president really needs to do now is to begin the process of shutting down the conventional coal plants. Politically, the White House is hesitant to say they’re having a war on coal. On the other hand, a war on coal is exactly what’s needed.’” *(John M Broder, “Obama To Outline Ambitious Plan To Cut Greenhouse Gases,” [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com), 6/25/13)*


**AND JUST WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR – THE EPA PLANS TO ANNOUNCE “MORE COSTLY” REGULATIONS ON EXISTING PLANTS**

Next Year, The EPA Plans To Announce Regulations On Existing Coal Plants, “A Far More Costly And Controversial Step.” “Ms. McCarthy also announced a yearlong schedule for an environmental listening tour — a series of meetings across the country with the public, the industry and environmental groups as the agency works to establish emissions limits on existing power plants — a far more costly and controversial step. Mr. Obama has told officials he wants to see greenhouse gas limits on existing and new power plants by the time he leaves office in 2017.” *(Michael Shear, “Administration To Press Ahead With Carbon Limits,” [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com), 9/20/13)*