



Briefing Notice

Environmental Justice in the Clean Power Plan

Monday, February 22, 2016

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

2168 Rayburn House Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/022216justice#rsvp

Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

This briefing was originally scheduled on January 25

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invites you to a briefing discussing how environmental justice (EJ) is addressed through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Clean Power Plan, the nation's first-ever rules limiting carbon pollution from power plants (which are the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States). The Clean Power Plan will not only cut millions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions, but also hundreds of thousands of tons of particulate pollution that becomes soot and smog. Cutting these emissions will help prevent thousands of premature deaths, heart attacks, asthma attacks, and missed work days. Minority and low-income communities, which are more likely to be located in areas burdened with pollution, will particularly benefit from these emission reductions.

In accordance with Executive Order 12898, EPA is required to make environmental justice a part of its mission. After active involvement and feedback from the EJ community, the final Clean Power Plan provides tools to reduce the burden placed on minority, low-income, and indigenous communities from pollution and ensure that these communities are not disproportionately affected by the rule. Please join us as our panel explores how incorporating environmental justice concerns into the Clean Power Plan's implementation can help vulnerable communities.

- **Mustafa Ali**, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice, EPA
- **Matthew Tejada**, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, EPA
- **Mark Magaña**, President, GreenLatinos (invited)
- **Vernice Miller-Travis**, Senior Associate, Community Planning and Revitalization Group, Skeo Solutions

The Clean Power Plan requires states to meaningfully engage with low-income and minority communities, identify communities currently suffering from air pollution and climate change, and evaluate how compliance plans will affect these communities. The rule also rewards states for implementing energy efficiency projects in low-income communities through the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP).

Despite these requirements, there are concerns that some vulnerable communities will not see benefits from the Clean Power Plan. Some EJ organizations are worried that air pollution hotspots may result from the increased use of coal or natural gas plants prior to the implementation of the rule; there are also concerns that the use of cap-and-trade programs to comply with the CPP will allow polluting facilities near communities to stay open. To ensure the Clean Power Plan is helping vulnerable communities, the EPA will assess its implementation to check that air quality "in all areas" has improved, and that there are no deleterious localized impacts.

This briefing is the first in a series examining environmental justice perspectives on the Clean Power Plan.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Laura Small at lsmall@eesi.org or (202) 662-1892.

