

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

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The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) supports the state of Georgia's legal challenge of the federal Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule, but will continue to work on an implementation plan to meet deadlines imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Georgia contends that EPA has exceeded its legal authority in the CPP.

"I have serious concerns about the legality of this rule and thus am hopeful the court will issue a stay before we spend time and resources on the development of a state plan," said EPD Director Jud Turner. "Given the stringent federal deadlines, however, we will move forward to get a significant amount of work done in a relatively short amount of time should implementation of the CPP not be stayed."

The rule gives states one year to develop an initial plan to meet the CPP requirements with an additional two-year period for the final state plan. The CPP rule was published in the Federal Register today, which is the final step in the federal rule-making process.

EPA issued the CPP rule in August to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired and gas-fired power plants. The CPP gives Georgia an emissions goal of 1,049 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour by 2030. That's a 34 percent reduction from the actual 2012 baseline emissions rate of 1,598 pounds of carbon dioxide.

EPD is working closely with the Public Service Commission, the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and representatives from public utilities looking for ways to meet the required reductions while controlling costs for electric utility customers. Additional stakeholders include municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas emitted by fossil fuel-fired power plants (primarily coal-fired plants and gas-fired plants.) Power generation from nuclear plants and from renewable sources (solar, wind, etc.) emits no carbon dioxide. The CPP does give Georgia emissions credit for the expansion underway at the Plant Vogtle nuclear facility.

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