

	NEWS FROM		
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**Statement by the Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Hearing: Recent EPA Rulemakings Relating to Boilers,  
Cement Manufacturing Plants and Utilities**

WASHINGTON — “Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to all of the guests attending today’s hearing.

“Today we will hear testimony from a variety of stakeholders on proposed or finalized EPA rules regarding new, maximum achievable control technology (MACT) and other standards for power plants, cement facilities, boilers and incinerators.

“Section 112 of the Clean Air Act mandates that the EPA establish technology-based standards to reduce hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) that may contribute to increased cases of cancer, birth defects and other harmful health defects and adverse environmental impacts.

“Mr. Chairman, we all understand that the EPA is required by law, under the Clean Air Act, to issue each of these rules on a specified schedule, and all of these standards were actually mandated to be completed by the year 2000.

“Additionally, we all know that facilities will have an additional three and, in some cases, up to four years to comply with these rules once they are finalized if state or federal authorities determine that additional time is necessary to install pollution controls.

“Now, I’m not a math major, Mr. Chairman, but it would seem to me that if these rules were supposed to be issued back in 2000, and we are now in the year 2011, and facilities will still have up to three to four years to install these controls once they are finalized, then plant operators will have an almost *15 year delay* in meeting these standards even if all of these rules were finalized today.

“Today, we will hear contrasting testimony by industry stakeholders on how compliance with these rules will impact energy rates and reliability, jobs and the overall economy.

“For instance, those utility companies that have been proactive in preparing for these rules, which everyone understood were coming, will testify on how these rules are balanced and reasonable, that the EPA has engaged the industry in a transparent manner, and that they will have no problem meeting these standards because they have already invested in these control technologies.

“These forward-thinking companies will also testify that implementing these pollution control technologies can, indeed, advance economic growth, inspire innovation and competitiveness, and actually create good well-paying jobs through the installation of scrubbers, air quality control systems and other pollution control equipment.

“In addition to these economic benefits, we will also hear about some of the health and environmental benefits that compliance with these rules will bring.

“Specifically, just the reduction in mercury and particulate matter, alone, will lead to significant and tangible health benefits, including the prevention of thousands of premature deaths, nonfatal heart attacks, chronic bronchitis and aggravated asthma cases.

“Of course, we will also hear the other side of this story as well. Naturally, those companies that have been less active in planning and investing in pollution control technologies over the years will testify that they are unprepared for compliance and will request additional time to do so.

“Since there is no legislation up for debate today, I will reserve judgment on the merits of pushing these rules down the road for future action, once again, and I look forward to today’s testimony and questions for all of our witnesses.

“With that I yield back my time.”

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