

**Volume 267 January 3, 2011**

### Environmental

The House Republicans are using language to describe Environmental Protection Agency proposals aimed at cutting coal-fired power plant emissions that they say are burdening businesses at the worst possible time. Those arguments, however, have been met with equal force from the opposing side that maintains all the hysteria is funded by the world's worst polluters. "The Environmental Protection Agency and the nation's landmark environmental safeguards were created with overwhelming bipartisan consensus in Congress and support from Republican and Democratic presidents," says a report issued by the Democrats on the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment. "Forty years of achievements are now threatened by partisan attacks."

The document tries to give an historical account of how environmental regulations have enjoyed broad political support. It notes that the Office of Management and Budget, which reviewed 10 major EPA rules, concludes that the benefits of those regulations have outweighed the costs by a factor of 7. Bills have passed the U.S. House Representatives that would delay or curtail proposals to reduce the levels of mercury, lead and arsenic as well as those regulated under the Clean Air Act. While the measures are asking for more time, they are also demanding that EPA first consider costs -- seemingly reasonable, although critics contend the practical effect is to ignore the science and derail the rules. EPA's critics are also saying the agency pads its health-related risks. The House, meanwhile, is attempting to cut EPA's funding by 18 percent. It would fall from \$8.65 billion to \$7.15 billion.

Their points have made inroads with those in coal-producing states, not to mention the Obama administration. Already, the White House has slowed the start of new ozone rules that affect smog and most recently, the postponement of greenhouse gas rules. It has also made slight modifications to "cross-state air pollution rules" pertaining to sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Divided government will result in a stalemate. The questions then become just how fast and to what degree EPA's rules will move and the answers will depend on how next year's national elections turn out. The American people will decide whether environmental protections are progressive tools that create jobs or whether they are ill-advised actions that destroy them.

### Electricity Pricing Areas - Jan 3, 2012

On-Peak	Per kWh
<b>Cinergy</b>	<b>\$.03423</b>
<b>PJM West</b>	<b>\$.04265</b>

### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
<b>Dec 1-Dec 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$.03545</b>
<b>Jan 1 -Jan 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$.03871</b>
<b>Feb 1 - Feb 28</b>	<b>\$.03581</b>
<b>March 1- Mar 31</b>	<b>\$.03668</b>
<b>April 1 - April 30</b>	<b>\$.03448</b>
<b>May1- May 31</b>	<b>\$.03954</b>
<b>June 1 - June 30</b>	<b>\$.03851</b>
<b>July 1 thru July 31</b>	<b>\$.05170</b>
<b>Aug 1 - Aug 31</b>	<b>\$.04064</b>
<b>Sep 1 - Sep 30</b>	<b>\$.03058</b>
<b>Oct 1- Oct31</b>	<b>\$.02968</b>
<b>Nov 1- Nov 30</b>	<b>\$.02816</b>
<b>Dec 1 - Dec 31</b>	<b>\$.02971</b>

**Weather Today:** Sun and clouds mixed. High around 30F. Winds WSW at 15 to 25 mph. **Tonight:** Mostly cloudy skies this evening will become partly cloudy after midnight. Flurries or freezing drizzle possible. Low 27F. Winds SSW at 20 to 30 mph. **Wed:** Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 38F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph. **Thu:** Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 30s. **Fri:** Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 30s. **Sat:** Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.

