

Volume 281 April 10, 2012

The EPA

The House Republicans are using potent language to describe a raft of 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.

EPA's rule-makings would adversely affect coal-fired electric generation, forcing utilities to decide whether to upgrade those plants or to retire them. New technologies will be needed to control major pollutants -- investments that the EPA says will lead to better health and greater productivity. As businesses invest, the activity will also create jobs in richer, modern fields.
Ken Silverstein Energy Central

Electricity Pricing Areas - Apr 10, 2012 April

On-Peak	Per kWh
Cinergy	\$.02850
PJM West	\$.03391

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Apr 1-Apr 30, 2011	\$.03448
May 1- May 31	\$.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$.04064
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.03058
Oct 1- Oct31	\$.02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$.02816
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$.02971
Jan 1 -Jan 31	\$.03043
Feb 1-Feb 29	\$.02963
Mar 1 thru Mar 31	\$.02894
April 1 - April 9	\$.02641

Weather Today: Sunny to partly cloudy. High 47F. Winds NW at 20 to 30 mph. **Tonight:** Some clouds. Low 34F. Winds NW at 15 to 25 mph. **Wed:** Mainly sunny. High 52F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph. **Wed night:** A mostly clear sky. Low around 35F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday:** Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s. **Friday:** Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 50s. **Saturday:** Cloudy with showers and thunderstorms.. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 60s.

