

### Volume 301 August 28, 2012

#### Ahead of convention, Republican governors release energy plan

"Emerging technologies in areas like fracking, oil exploration and coal production make American energy safer and more beneficial than ever," Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, the RGA chairman, said in a statement. "Inexplicably, instead of harnessing American energy, President Obama is restricting it."

The governors were most critical of several new U.S. EPA regulations limiting power plant emissions. The long list of rules, primarily aimed at coal power producers, include caps on emissions of greenhouse gases and toxins that the EPA estimates will bring millions of dollars' worth of health benefits. But such regulations, the governors say, threaten to raise energy prices and eliminate coal from the nation's fuel mix, jeopardizing jobs.

The governors' energy plan supports increased investments in so-called "clean-coal" technology and "coal-to-gas" conversions.

Aging coal plants are shuttering across the country and few new coal plants are being built. Stricter regulations have increased that trend, but it was well under way before the rollout of EPA regulations. As Stateline has reported, the abundance of cheap natural gas -- spurred by leaps in drilling technology -- is likely most to blame for the coal industry's slowdown. That phenomenon was not mentioned in the governor's plan.

A report released this month by the U.S. Government Accountability Office -- a study of the impact of four EPA regulations -- found that the rules would likely increase electricity prices in some regions, challenging electric reliability. According to one study cited in the report, price jumps could range from 0.1 percent in the Northwest to 13.5 percent in the more coal-dependent South. On Tuesday, EPA's critics scored a major victory against the agency when a federal court struck down the agency's Cross State Pollution Rule, which sought to protect downwind states from power plant pollution blown across borders. The court ruled that the EPA had exceeded its authority in drawing up the rule, which was to go into effect in January. On the issue of oil extraction, the GOP governors call for more drilling and streamlined review of major infrastructure projects, including the Keystone XL pipeline. The governors' plan would introduce revenue-sharing plans for off-shore projects, and it would pursue a "North American Energy Partnership" -- dialogue between the governors and premiers of Mexico and Canada.

Read the entire article at:

[http://www.energycentral.com/functional/news/news\\_detail.cfm?did=25693892](http://www.energycentral.com/functional/news/news_detail.cfm?did=25693892)

#### Electricity Pricing Areas – Sep, 2012

On-Peak	Per kWh
PJM West Hub	\$ .03182
NI Hub	\$ .02538

#### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Aug, 2011	\$ .04064
Sep, 2011	\$ .03058
Oct, 2011	\$ .02968
Nov, 2011	\$ .02816
Dec, 2011	\$ .02971
Jan, 2012	\$ .03043
Feb, 2012	\$ .02963
Mar, 2012	\$ .02894
April, 2012	\$ .02659
May, 2012	\$ .02816
June, 2012	\$ .03089
July, 2012	\$ .04303
Aug 1 thru Aug 27	\$ .03057

#### Extended Temperature Forecast:

##### Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	81	85	88	95	83
Low	67	65	69	72	69

