

Good Evening, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about Mercer County's concerns with EPA's Clean Power Plant Rule and the direct effect this rule could have on the people of Mercer County and their families.

Mercer County is home to 4 coal fired power plants, 1 Synfuels Plant,(converting coal to natural gas & other products). 2 coal mines, plus one more mine being built as we speak.

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Mercer County States Attorney, Jessica Binder and the Mercer County Commission, have prepared a 9 page Declaration of Harm concerning this rule and presented it to the ND State Health Department in Beulah, last Thursday evening.

Mercer County has also joined the North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem in Case No. 15-1380 concerning Plan 111(d).

The Mercer County Commission is concerned about the 1,990 people who are directly employed by Clean ND Coal with in the county. Mercer County's Population is 8,592, these 1,990 people are equivalent to 23%, nearly 1 out of 4 people in Mercer County that are directly employed by ND Clean Coal.

In Mercer County Schools, both Hazen and Beulah, the Student Populations consist of approximately 50% to 54% of the Students who have one or more parents directly employed by this Clean Coal Industry.

In 1971, I returned to ND from 3 years in the US Army. I was employed at Basin Electric's Leland Olds Plant during the Construction and Start up of Unit 2.

I can attest that during that time, and continuing to today, ND Coal and the ND Power Industry has led the Nation in striving for Clean Air, Water and in other responsible environmental issues.

EPA, in it's original plan, had a goal of 11% reduction of CO2 generated from 2005 to 2014. While increasing power generation, during that same time period, CO2 Generation was reduced by 11%, as you heard Tom Bachman state in his presentation a few minutes ago, The ND Coal & Power Industry was once again Responsible!

SO, In August 2015, when EPA's Final Plan came out, they required a 45% reduction in CO2 Generation. GO FIGURE!

This does not seem very rewarding for an industry that has striven to be responsible and respectful to the environment.

Nor, does it seem right that ND can not take credit for renewable energy efforts prior to January 2013, or take credit for Dakota Gas

Synfuels plant efforts in capturing ton's of CO2 emissions and piping it to Canada for oil recovery there. I also understand that ND is not allowed to take credit for efforts in the oil patch to capture & reduce flaring through new electrical generation developed by that method. And yet, we are allowed to buy or trade Carbon Credits from other States???? How does that positively impact our ND environment????

In Closing, I want to say how thankful I am that Dave Glatt and his team at the ND State Health Department are the ones intrusted with the task of Studying and proposing a final plan and not some uninformed commission within EPA at the federal level.

Hopefully, the EPA will not use the ND Health Department as a scape goat while washing their (EPA's) hands of any involvement in this Plan.