



The Clean Air Act Under Attack

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Main points:

- The Clean Air Act covers mobile sources (cars and trucks) and stationary sources (power plants and industry).
- The Clean Air Act sets overall air quality standards and source-specific performance standards.
- Wisconsin power plants emit (all numbers approximate and rounded):
 - 2,000 lbs of mercury per year (can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages, and can cause neurological damage in fetuses)
 - 100,000 tons of sulfur dioxide per year (causes lung irritation, asthma)
 - 30,000 tons of nitrogen oxides per year (causes lung irritation, asthma)
 - 10,000 tons of particulate matter per year (can cause premature death, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and asthma)
 - 44,000,000 tons of CO₂ per year (global warming)
- Ozone standard – currently 13 years out of date.
 - Greenhouse gas regulation
 - Hazardous Air Pollutants from utilities, called “utility MACT” – draft out summer of 2011, final rule expected 2011 – 20 years after it was due.
 - CSAPR – Regulating cross-state pollution of ozone, revision of 2006 rule.
- Current Clean Air Act proposals:
 - CSAPR - 440 fewer premature deaths and between \$1.4 billion and \$3.5 billion in health benefits each year in Wisconsin.
 - Mercury - in 2016, these standards could yield between \$1.3 and \$3.1 billion in health benefits for Wisconsin.
 - Total savings: hundreds of lives plus \$2.7-6.6 billion in health benefits.
- Attacks against the EPA and the Clean Air Act:
 - Delay of Ozone air quality standard
 - Delay of greenhouse gas performance standard
 - “TRAIN” act – H.R. 2401: Significantly limits EPA authority to implement the Clean Air Act.
 - Possible delay of CSAPR and EGU MACT?