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New Pollution Standard Will Reduce Impact of Coal on America's Communities

WASHINGTON, DC—In response to the today's finalization of the EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, Kyle Ash, Greenpeace's Senior Legislative Representative, issued the following statement:

"Today EPA announced final standards for pollutants from coal-fired power plants that cause thousands of deaths and hundreds of billions in health care costs every year.

Coal industry utilities like American Electric Power (AEP) spend vast sums of money fighting public health protections, instead of investing in pollution controls on sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide that have been available for decades. Today, the stock AEP puts in their lobbyists must be plummeting now that new, commonsense safeguards will be put in place to protect the health of America's communities.

No method of harnessing energy is more expensive and damaging to American's health than burning coal, and yet coal polluters take every opportunity to outsource costs of up to 500 billion dollars to American communities in the form of healthcare and environmental costs. We sincerely hope that today's announcement will set a precedent for future safeguards that will protect communities from coal pollution in the form of 130 million tons of toxic ash annually, as well as airborne arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury."

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