An Overview of The Clean Air Planning Act: A Comparison to Other Legislative Proposals

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Emission Cap Levels and Timetables Associated with Multi-Pollutant Legislative Proposals

Proposal	NO_x	SO_2	Hg	CO_2
Clear Skies Act (Inhofe, Voinovich, Barton, Tauzin)	2.1 million tons - 2008 (59% reduction from 2000 levels) 1.7 million tons - 2018 (67% reduction from 2000 levels)	4.5 million tons - 2010 (50% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap) 3.0 million tons - 2018 (67% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap)	26 tons - 2010 (46% reduction from 1999 levels) 15 tons - 2018 (69% reduction from 1999 levels)	No mandatory CO_2 provisions
Clean Air Planning Act (Carper, Chafee, Gregg, Alexander, Bass, Davis, Cooper)	1.87 million tons - 2009 (63% reduction 2000 levels) 1.7 million tons - 2013 (67% reduction from 2000 levels)	4.5 million tons - 2009 (50% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap) 3.5 million tons - 2013 (61% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap) 2.25 million tons - 2016 (75% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap)	24 tons - 2009 (50% reduction from 1999 levels) 10 tons - 2013 (79% reduction from 1999 levels)	2005 levels (2.6 billion tons plus flexibility) - 2009 2001 levels (2.4 billion tons plus flexibility) - 2013
Clean Power Act (Jeffords and 19 co-sponsors)	1.5 million tons - 2009 (70% reduction from 2000 levels)	2.25 million tons - 2009 (75% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap)	5 tons - 2008 (90% reduction from 1999 levels)	2.1 billion tons - 2009
Clean Smokestacks Act (Waxman and 17 cosponsors)	75% reduction from 1997 levels – 2009	75% reduction from Phase II Acid Rain cap - 2009	90% reduction from 1999 levels –2009	1990 levels - 2009

Cost Implications: the Clean Air Planning Act (CAPA), the Clear Skies Act (CSA), & the Clean Power Act (CPA)

- The difference in total system costs between CAPA and CSA for 2005 through 2025 is only 2 percent.

- The additional costs associated with CAPA (vs. CSA) in 2020 are $2.6 billion. This represents less than 1 percent of total industry operating revenues.

- The most expensive elements of multi-pollutant legislation are achieving the SO_2 and Hg reduction targets; and

- The difference in retail rates (the price that consumers and businesses pay for electricity) between CAPA and CSA is minimal, while rates under CPA are substantially higher than the other two legislative proposals.

- According to EPA's own analysis, retail electricity prices would increase by only two-tenths of a cent per kilowatt hour more under the Clean Air Planning Act than under Clear Skies, or roughly $1.20 per month for the average residence.

Costs and Benefits of CAPA and CSA: A Comparison

Compared to CSA, CAPA achieves the following benefits for less than a 2 percent increase in retail electric rates:

An additional 25 million tons of SO_2 reductions;

An additional 3.3 million tons of NOx reductions;

An additional 150 tons of mercury reductions; and

An additional 6 billion tons of CO_2 reductions, plus business and investment certainty.

This results in:

Roughly $50 billion in additional annual public health benefits (relative to Clear Skies) in 2020; and

Significant environmental improvements at a more rapid rate.