

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

The information presented here reflects EPA's modeling of the Clear Skies Act of 2002. The Agency is in the process of updating this information to reflect modifications included in the Clear Skies Act of 2003. The revised information will be posted on the Agency's Clear Skies Web site (www.epa.gov/clearskies) as soon as possible.

CLEAR SKIES IN NORTH CAROLINA¹

Human Health and Environmental Benefits of Clear Skies: Clear Skies would protect human health, improve air quality, and reduce deposition of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and mercury.²

- In 2020, over \$6 billion of the annual benefits of Clear Skies would occur in North Carolina. Every year, these would include:
 - approximately 800 fewer premature deaths;
 - approximately 500 fewer cases of chronic bronchitis;
 - over 21,000 fewer days with asthma attacks;
 - approximately 800 fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits;
 - approximately 150,000 fewer days of work lost due to respiratory symptoms; and
 - approximately 1 million fewer total days with respiratory-related symptoms.
- By 2010, based on initial modeling, Clear Skies would bring 6 counties (Catawba, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, McDowell and Wake—population over 1.5 million) into attainment with the annual fine particle standard.⁴
- By 2020, based on initial modeling, Clear Skies would bring 2 additional counties (Davidson and Mecklenburg—population over 800,000) into attainment with the annual fine particle standard.
- By 2020, all North Carolina counties are projected to meet the annual fine particle and 8-hour ozone standards under Clear Skies.
- Clear Skies delivers numerous environmental benefits by 2020:
 - visibility would improve 2-3 deciviews in coastal areas and the western mountains, home to Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and 1-2 deciviews in the rest of North Carolina (a change of 1 deciview is a perceptible change in visibility);
 - sulfur deposition would decrease 30-60% throughout the state;
 - nitrogen deposition would be reduced by up to 60% in the region of Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and by 15-30% throughout the state, including coastal areas where nitrogen deposition contributes to coastal eutrophication; and
 - mercury deposition would decrease up to 25% throughout the state.

Clear Skies Benefits Nationwide

- In 2020, annual health benefits from reductions in ozone and fine particles would total \$93 billion, including 12,000 fewer premature deaths, far outweighing the \$6.49 billion cost of the Clear Skies program.
- Using an alternative methodology results in over 7,000 premature deaths prevented and \$11 billion in benefits by 2020—still exceeding the cost of the program.³
- Clear Skies would provide an additional \$3 billion in benefits due to improved visibility in National Parks and wilderness areas in 2020.

¹ The projected impacts are the results of extensive emissions and regional air quality modeling and benefits analyses as summarized in the *Technical Addendum: Methodologies for Benefit Analysis of the Clear Skies Initiative, 2002*. While the policy analyses tools EPA used are among the best available, all such national scale policy assessments are subject to a number of uncertainties, particularly when projecting air quality or environmental impacts in particular locations.

² All human health and environmental benefits are calculated in comparison to existing Clean Air Act programs.

³ The two sets of estimates reflect alternative assumptions and analytical approaches regarding quantifying and evaluating the effects of airborne particles on public health. All estimates assume that particles are causally associated with health effects, and that all components have the same toxicity. Linear concentration-response relationships between PM and all health effects are assumed, indicating that reductions in PM have the same impact on health outcomes regardless of the absolute level of PM in a given location. The base estimate relies on estimates of the potential cumulative effect of long-term exposure to particles, while the alternative estimate presumes that PM effects are limited to those that accumulate over much shorter time periods. All such estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and uncertainties. It is of note that, based on recent preliminary findings from the Health Effects Institute, the magnitude of mortality from short-term exposure (alternative estimates) and hospital/ER admissions estimates (both estimates) may be overstated. The alternatives also use different approaches to value health effects damages. The key assumptions, uncertainties, and valuation methodologies underlying the approaches used to produce these results are detailed in the *Technical Addendum* noted above.

⁴ To permit comparisons among various analyses, the air quality data used in this analysis was fixed as the most complete and recently available as of mid-2001 (1997-1999 ozone monitoring data and 1999-2000 PM_{2.5} data). More complete and more recent air quality data for ozone and fine particles (1999-2001 data) indicates some differences in the likely attainment status of some counties. Future analyses of Clear Skies will incorporate the most recent data available.

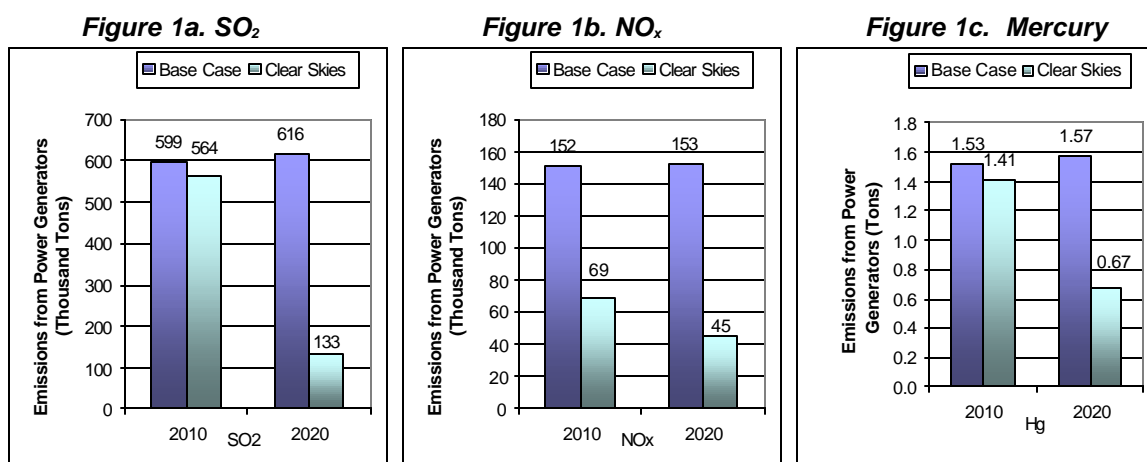
Changes in Emissions Under Clear Skies: Clear Skies is projected to result in significant emissions reductions from power generators by 2020:

- In North Carolina, Clear Skies is projected to significantly reduce emissions from power generators by 2020 (relative to 2000 emissions):
 - SO₂ emissions would be reduced by 71%;
 - NO_x emissions would be reduced by 72%; and
 - mercury emissions would be reduced by 56%.

Nationwide Emissions under Clear Skies in 2020

- SO₂ emissions from power generators are projected to be 3.9 million tons (a 65% reduction from 2000 levels).
- NO_x emissions are projected to be 1.7 million tons (a 67% reduction from 2000 levels).
- Mercury emissions are projected to be 18 tons (a 63% reduction from 2000 levels).
- At full implementation, the emission reductions would be 73% for SO₂, 67% for NO_x, and 69% for mercury.

Figures 1a, 1b and 1c. Existing Clean Air Act Regulations (base case⁵) vs. Clear Skies in North Carolina in 2010 and 2020



- Emissions rates in North Carolina in 2010 and 2020:

Table 1. Projected Emissions Rates in 2010 and 2020 in North Carolina From Power Generators

Year		SO ₂	NO _x			Hg
		Coal	All	Coal	Gas	Coal
		lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/TBtu
2010	Base Case	1.37	0.34	0.34	0.10	3.49
	Clear Skies	1.36	0.16	0.16	0.10	3.41
2020	Base Case	1.37	0.30	0.33	0.06	3.50
	Clear Skies	0.31	0.09	0.10	0.04	1.58

Costs: Nationwide, the projected annual costs of Clear Skies (in \$1999) are \$3.69 billion in 2010 and \$6.49 billion in 2020.⁶

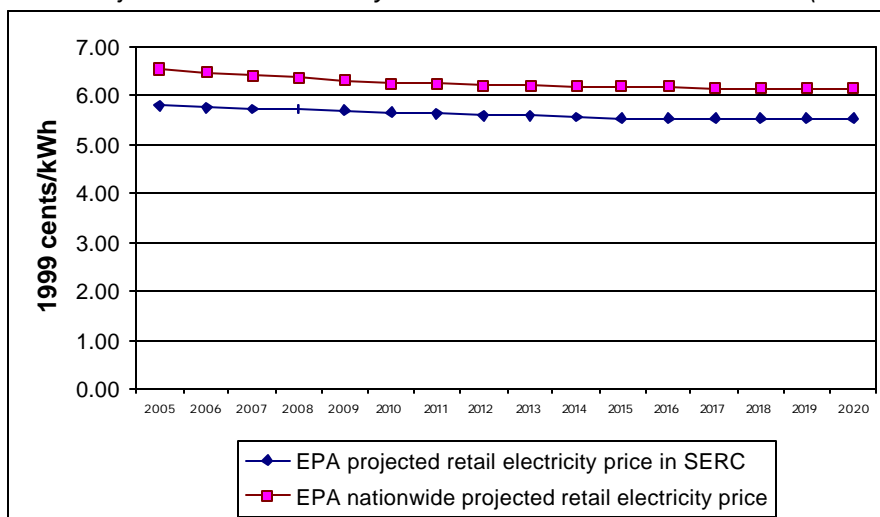
⁵ The base case includes Title IV, the NO_x SIP call and State-specific caps in CT, MO and TX. It does not include mercury MACT in 2008 or any other potential future regulations to implement the current Clean Air Act.

⁶ EPA uses the Integrated Planning Model (IPM) to project the economic impact of Clear Skies on the power generation sector. IPM disaggregates the power generation sector into specific regions based on properties of the electric transmission system, power market fundamentals, and regional environmental regulations. These regions do not conform to State or EPA region boundaries making some compliance options, such as dispatch, and associated costs impractical to differentiate at a State or Regional level.

Changes in Projected Retail Electricity Prices Under Clear Skies: Electricity prices in North Carolina would not be significantly affected by Clear Skies.

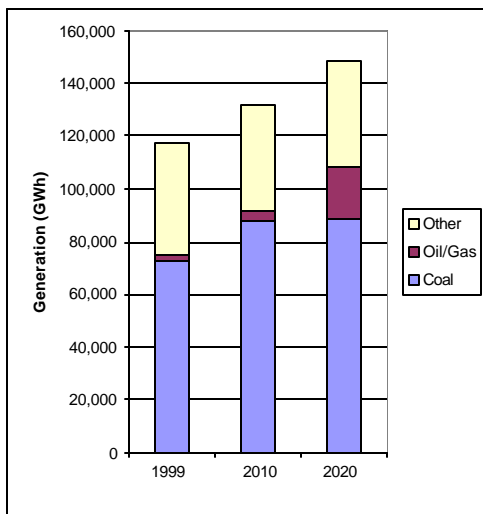
- In 1999, the average retail electricity price in North Carolina was approximately 6.44 cents/kWh, which was slightly less than the average *national* retail price of approximately 6.66 cents/kWh.⁷ As shown in Figure 3, retail prices in SERC (the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) region that contains North Carolina) are projected to decrease and remain below the national average between 2005 and 2020.⁸

Figure 2. Projected Retail Electricity Prices in SERC under Clear Skies (2005-2020)



Generation in North Carolina Under Clear Skies: Coal-fired power plants currently produce 62% of the electricity generated in North Carolina. Although the portion of the total generation produced by coal-fired units may vary under Clear Skies, coal-fired generation would increase. The contribution of coal-fired generation is projected to be approximately 67% by 2010 and 59% by 2020.

Figure 3. Current and Projected Generation by Fuel Type in North Carolina under Clear Skies (GWh)⁹



⁷ Source: 1999 EIA data at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/page/fact_sheets/retailprice.html.

⁸ State-level retail electricity prices vary considerably across the United States. Variation in prices can be caused by many factors including access to low cost fuels for generating power, State taxes, and the mix of power plants in the States.

⁹ Source: 1999 data from EIA at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/st_profiles/north_carolina/nc.html#t5 (Table 5).

- EPA does not project that any facilities in North Carolina would switch from coal to natural gas in response to the Clear Skies emissions caps. Instead, sources in North Carolina would reduce their emissions through the installation of control technologies.
 - By 2010, coal-fired capacity in North Carolina is projected to be approximately 13,000 MW under Clear Skies. Approximately 8,800 MW of North Carolina's coal capacity is projected to install Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR).
 - Between 2010 and 2020, an additional 1,500 MW are projected to install SCR and 9,800 MW are projected to install scrubbers.
- 76% of North Carolina's coal-fired generation is projected to come from coal units with emission control equipment in 2010, and 87% in 2020.¹⁰

Coal Production in North Carolina: North Carolina did not produce coal in 2000 and is not projected to produce coal under Clear Skies.

Major Generation Companies in North Carolina: The ten largest plants in the State -- each over 700 MW -- are a combination of nuclear, coal- and petroleum-fired units. The major generation companies include: Duke Energy Corporation, Carolina Power & Light Co., Virginia Electric & Power Co., Fayetteville Public Works Comm., and Energy United Elec. Member Corp.

¹⁰ Emissions control equipment includes, where applicable, scrubbers, selective catalytic reduction, selective non-catalytic reduction, gas-reburn and activated carbon injection.