EPA Workshop for Environmental Justice Communities on the Clean Power Plan

Stakeholder Perspective on the Clean Power Plan

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Port Arthur, Texas
November 5, 2015

CO2 Emissions

- Fossil Fuel fired power plants are the largest source of CO2 emissions in the United States. Fossil Fuel fired power plants CO2 emissions account for 31% of the United States total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Power plants are America's biggest source of pollution driving climate change.
- Green house gas pollution threatens Americans human health and environmental welfare that results in long lasting changes in our climate.
- The human health impacts due to low level CO2 exposure consist of increase in lung dead space volume, increase in cerebral blood flow, elevated systemic and pulmonary blood pressure, slight decrease in bone formation and increase in bone resorption.

Louisiana Power Plants

- 2 Nuclear Powered Plants
  - River Bend in West Feliciana Parish
  - Waterford in St. Charles Parish
- 4 Coal, Lignite and Industrial Coke fired power plants
  - Dolet Hills in Desoto Parish (lignite)
  - Rodemacher Plant in Rapides Parish (coal and industrial coke)
  - Big Cajun 2 in Pointe Coupee Parish (coal)
  - R. S. Nelson in Calcasieu Parish (coal)
- 115 Natural Gas fired power plants serving individual and business customers, and Industrial Chemical and Biomass fired power plants serving industrial facilities and agricultural processing plants

Impacts of CO2 Emissions from Power Plants in Louisiana

- Louisiana ranks 22nd out of 50 states based on carbon emissions from power plants.
- Louisiana ranks 4th for carbon emissions from coal plants.
- The Clean Power Plan goal for Louisiana by 2030 is 1,121 pounds per megawatt-hour. The baseline year of 2012 had a historic concentration of 1,618 pounds per megawatt-hour.
- The goal for Louisiana is considered a moderate goal. It is extremely important for the protection of human health and the environment in Louisiana, that EPA and the state of Louisiana attain the 2030 goal as well as the interim goals.

Disappearing Coastal Areas

- The CO2 emissions from power plants in Louisiana result in negative impacts to a much larger area than fence line communities.
- The green house gas emissions result in rising sea levels. In Louisiana the rising sea levels in conjunction with eroding coastal areas has had a severe negative impact on the wetlands of Louisiana as well as coastal communities that have existed in the coastal areas for many generations.
- These communities are finding themselves with open water where their communities once existed on solid ground. The rising sea level also puts inland areas at risk due to the loss of buffer areas between the inland communities and the Gulf of Mexico.

Desperate Need for CO2 Emission Reductions

- It is extremely important to reduce the CO2 emissions from power plants to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and decrease the resulting environmental and human health impacts of CO2 emissions.
- The coastal communities are desperate for the decrease in CO2 emissions and the reduction in the rate of rising sea level. Their survival depends on it.