



November 13, 2017

Hon. E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Request for Additional Public Hearings on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

The Natural Resources Defense Council, on behalf of its three million member and supporters, reiterates its request that EPA hold a series of public hearings on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, in places across this country where Americans are experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change and power plant pollution. To date, EPA has scheduled only a single hearing in Charleston, WV, on November 28-29. The notice states, however, that “EPA may also hold an additional hearing to be announced at a later date.” 82 Fed. Reg. 51,787 (Nov. 8, 2017).

Concerned citizens in West Virginia – both favoring and opposing the Clean Power Plan – deserve to be heard. But it is entirely inadequate to hold just one hearing on the proposed repeal of the nation’s first limits on power plant carbon pollution – a regulation of national scope and of enormous public interest, importance, and impact.

EPA held a robust series of public hearings across this country – in Washington, Pittsburgh, Denver, and Atlanta – when establishing the Clean Power Plan. Each hearing spanned two days, and in several of them EPA heard public comment simultaneously in two separate rooms. Thousands of citizens, on all sides of the issue, participated in person, in addition to the millions who filed comments. The agency has the same obligation to give the public real opportunities to speak at hearings in the nation’s capital and across the nation when proposing to repeal the Plan.

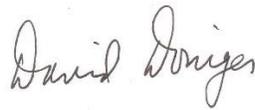
EPA received dozens of requests – from city and state elected leaders, and from a wide variety of environmental and community organizations – to hold multiple hearings on the proposed repeal, in places across this country where Americans are experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change and the health consequences of power plant pollution.

NRDC also requests that EPA keep registration open for speakers at the Charleston hearing up to the day of the hearing. Presently, there is a 12-day gap between the November 16 registration deadline and the hearing date. For the hearings on the original Clean Power Plan, the agency set registration deadlines much closer to the hearing dates – 2 days (Pittsburgh), 4 days (Denver), 6 days (Washington), 7 days (Atlanta). And the agency accommodated many additional speakers through the hearing dates themselves. Many people who want to be heard in Charleston may be precluded if the agency imposes a registration deadline so far in advance of the hearing date.

The Clean Power Plan responds to the crisis of climate change, a grave threat to communities across America, particularly those affected by the four hurricanes and enormous wildfires that have hit this nation in recent months alone. Repealing the Clean Power Plan would put tens of millions of Americans in greater danger from extreme weather and other climate impacts, cause thousands of early deaths each year, sicken tens of thousands more, and damage the economy by causing hundreds of thousands of lost work and school days.

Holding a single hearing on the proposed repeal in Charleston will not give an adequate opportunity to be heard to the broad range of Americans across this country with a stake in this vital rule. Accordingly, EPA should hold additional hearings in the nation's capital and in a range of communities that are adversely affected by climate change and by power plant pollution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Doniger".

David D. Doniger
Director, Climate and Clean Air Program

Cc: airaction@epa.gov