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Michigan to Review EPA's New Rule Regulating Carbon Emissions from Power Plants

August 3, 2015 – Michigan state agencies are reviewing the rule issued today by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will regulate carbon emissions from the utility sector for the first time. The rule is quite long and technically complex.

“Starting today, multiple state agencies will begin the task of determining the implications of the carbon rule in Michigan,” said Valerie Brader, executive director of the Michigan Agency for Energy. “We will be doing that work while continuing discussions with our legislators and stakeholders regarding how to create an energy future that is adaptable, affordable, reliable, and environmentally protective.”

Brader said the EPA's rule will require a substantial investment of time to review and digest to determine the impact on Michigan.

“If, after this multi-agency review, we believe it is likely Michigan can find a reasonable path to compliance, we will engage a wide range of stakeholders and offer the public a chance to participate in the development of that plan,” she said.

The EPA in June 2014 issued its proposed rule. Michigan submitted [comments](#) in a joint filing made on Dec. 1, 2014 by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Public Service Commission. Those agencies, led by the newly created Michigan Agency for Energy, will all be involved in the review of the final rule released today.

In March, Gov. Snyder laid out his [vision](#) for what the state's energy mix would be in 2025 without the issuance of this rule. Due to the expected retirement of a large portion of Michigan's coal fleet due other regulations and age, even if this rule had not been issued, he said between 30 percent and 40 percent of Michigan's power should be coming from its cleanest sources (energy waste reductions and renewable energy) by 2025.

State agency representatives working on the review of the carbon emissions rule hope to have their review and analysis complete shortly after Labor Day. Until this is complete, the State does not expect to have any further comment on the rule.

From U.S. EPA statements prior to the rule's issuance, the state expects it will have approximately one year to prepare a plan for compliance with the rule or a federal plan will be imposed.

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