



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 16 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy requesting an extension of the comment period for the proposed Clean Power Plan, which was signed on June 2, 2014, and published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2014. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

Before issuing this proposal, the EPA heard from more than 300 stakeholder groups from around the country, to learn more about what programs are already working to reduce carbon pollution. In addition, during the week of July 29, the EPA conducted eight full days of public hearings in four cities. Over 1,300 people shared their thoughts and ideas about the proposal and over 1,400 additional people attended those hearings.

These hearings and these meetings, with states, utilities, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, consumer groups, industry, and others, reaffirmed that states are leading the way. The Clean Air Act provides the tools to build on these state actions in ways that will achieve meaningful reductions and recognizes that the way we generate power in this country is diverse and interconnected.

Recognizing that the proposal asks for comment on a range of issues, some of which are complex, the EPA initially proposed this rule with a 120-day comment period. The EPA has decided to extend the comment period by an additional 45 days, in order to get the best possible advice and data to inform a final rule.

The public comment period will now remain open until December 1, 2014. We encourage you and all interested parties to provide us with detailed comments on all aspects of the proposed rule. We have submitted your letter to the rulemaking docket, but additional comments can be submitted via any one of these methods:

Federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 on the cover page.

- Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2013-0602, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Kevin Bailey in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at bailey.kevinj@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.G. McCabe", is written over a horizontal line.

Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator