



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Contact: J. Mark Powell
(803) 734-3670
mpowell@scag.gov

Statement from Attorney General Alan Wilson Regarding U.S. Supreme Court Granting Stay on EPA Clean Power Plan

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson released the following statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's action halting implementation of the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan until legal challenges to it are resolved. South Carolina is among a bipartisan coalition of 29 states and state agencies that is challenging the plan in *West Virginia v. EPA*:

"We are pleased with the U. S. Supreme Court's move to halt the implementation of this plan while we challenge its legality in court. This flawed plan demonstrates yet again the EPA's disregard for the rule of law by trying to impose through regulation what Congress did not enact through legislation. It also does not take into account the impact that higher energy costs and lost jobs would have on families and businesses throughout the country. I am hopeful the federal courts will eventually strike down this unconstitutional overreach."

The coalition challenged the EPA's power plan on Oct. 23, 2015, the day it was published. The states argue the EPA exceeded its authority by double-regulating coal-fired power plants and forcing states to fundamentally shift their energy portfolios away from coal-fired generation.

Those urging the U.S. Supreme Court to immediately halt the EPA's unlawful power plan are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, along with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Public Service Commission, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Attorneys general from various states have consistently joined challenges to such EPA overreaches as the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, which would greatly expand federal regulatory control. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court last year sided with the states in blocking the EPA's attempt to regulate mercury emissions from energy plants, saying the agency had ignored a law requiring it to analyze costs before announcing regulations.

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