



The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency

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The following is a statement by Alliance for Industrial Efficiency Executive Director David Gardiner on EPA's Proposed Greenhouse Gas Rules for New Power Plants:

WASHINGTON (Sept. 20, 2013) – “The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency applauds the Environmental Protection Agency for recognizing the role of energy efficiency in its revised standards for carbon emissions from new sources under section 111(b) of the Clean Air Act.

“Conventional power generation is woefully inefficient. Two-thirds of the energy that goes into the process is simply lost as wasted heat. Even more energy is lost in the process of transferring electricity from the central power plant to those that need it. This means that more fuel has to be burned to heat our homes and make our cities run. This inefficiency has persisted since Eisenhower was in the White House.

“The most cost-effective way to lower emissions is to reduce the amount of energy being used in the first place. But traditional clean air rules discriminated against efficiency because they failed to measure all the useful energy produced from a power plant. Today, EPA has proposed a smart new regulation that encourages power plants to put their waste heat to a useful purpose. The rule rewards generators that have the highest ‘output’ of energy and the lowest ‘output’ of pollutants. It also credits efficient energy systems for the line losses they avoid by using electricity on site. This approach recognizes the tremendous efficiency benefits of combined heat and power, which produce both heat and electricity from a single fuel source.

“Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is a proven clean energy technology that could provide as much as 20 percent of U.S. electric capacity. At that level of full-scale deployment, CHP would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 800-million metric tons per year – equivalent to removing more than half of the current passenger vehicles from the road.

“By adopting an output-based standard, the Administration has given a boost to CHP – helping the United States slash emissions while reducing fuel costs and becoming more competitive. What's more, the rule credits CHP systems for the energy they save through avoided line losses.”

The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency is a diverse coalition that includes representatives from the business, environmental, labor and contractor communities. We are committed to enhancing manufacturing competitiveness and saving energy and money through industrial energy efficiency, particularly in the form of clean and efficient CHP and WHR.

For more, visit: <http://www.dgardiner.com/alliance>

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