

Testimony of Peter Orris, MD, MPH
Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility Board President
Professor and Chief, Occupational and Environmental Medicine,
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System
US EPA Hearings – Clean Energy Rule (ACE)
Chicago, Illinois
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Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE) proposal.

My name is Dr. Peter Orris, I am the chairman of the Board for Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility, and a senior clinical advisor to Health Care Without Harm. In addition, I am a Professor at the University of Illinois School of Public Health in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and serve on the faculties of both Rush University School of Medicine and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. I speak today as an individual but assume my testimony will reflect well on the roles noted above.

As a physician pledged to my patients' and the public's health, I strongly oppose the proposed step backward in our efforts to reduce toxic air pollution represented by this partial gutting of the Clean Power Plan. This proposal will additionally hinder our efforts to mitigate climate change. It ignores the excellent science that clearly points to premature deaths from these dangerous air pollutants. Your agency's own analysis shows that the proposed ACE Rule every year could result in

- Up to 1,400 more premature deaths
- Up to 120,000 more asthma attacks
- 390,000 more restricted activity days for children
- 100,000 more missed days of school and work

Pollution from Coal Fired Power Plants causes respiratory problems such as asthma,^[i]stunted lung development^[ii]and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome,^[iii]chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,^[iv]and lung cancer.^[v] Air pollution has also been linked to effects on cognition and behavior in children^[vi]and to the risk of childhood autism.^[vii] Further, coal pollution causes cardiac problems including heart attacks,^[viii]arrhythmias^[ix] and congestive heart failure.^[x]

I know I speak for both Chicago PSR and Health Care Without Harm in opposing this proposal from the political leadership of the EPA as it is risking the health of millions of Americans.

In addition, we oppose the proposed revisions to the New Source Review program alongside the ACE proposal. These revisions would permanently weaken protections

from other pollutants emitted by these power plants, with implications far beyond this rule alone.

EPA's proposal would permanently weaken the New Source Review process. Your new process would allow a power plant to show that new expansion would not worsen its rate of emitted pollutants even if its total emissions would go up.

To protect public health, EPA must implement and enforce the Clean Power Plan, not replace it with these dangerous proposals.

Thank you

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