



BOIL WATER ADVISORY: Cunningham Road

Should We Battle or Embrace the Clean Power Plan?

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The fight continues between a coalition led by our state's attorney general and the Environmental Protection Agency. The coalition wants to halt the start of the proposed [Clean Power Plan](#) they say would hurt our state... But a local study has come up with ways we could take advantage of it.

There's a lot of legal battles going on where our attorney general says the EPA is overstepping its authority with the plan, but of course there's also a whole other side to this story.

The Clean Power Plan wants to reduce carbon dioxide pollution from power plants with more regulations. The coalition led by Patrick Morrisey asked the Supreme Court for an



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emergency halt on implementing the rules for the plan, but the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals did not agree to it. However, the Supreme Court Chief did reportedly indicate he will consider the halt while the legal challenges are being reviewed. The court also did decide to expedite the case and oral arguments will start in June.

Morrisey says the EPA is supposedly going around judicial review and called it an "illegal assault." He says forcing our state to follow the "costly" regulations now would hurt us by causing job loss and creating less affordable energy.

"EPA is attempting to make the Supreme Court's eventual review of this rule a nolle," Morrisey said. "And they're trying to do that by forcing the state to take compliance actions now that're effectively irreversible."

On the other hand, a study done by a local environmental consultant group and WVU Law's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development shows possible scenarios of how our state could meet the new plan's regulations and still be okay. It says our other energy resources, like renewable energy and energy efficiency, haven't been fully taken advantage of and would create new jobs in different energy technologies.

"We have a choice. We could either do nothing, in which case all these new jobs will go to other states, or we could do our best to try to attract some of those new jobs," said Evan Hansen, President of Downstream Strategies.

It's also a toss up between what many of you think of all of this.

"It's going to hurt this state, it's gonna hurt our economy even more," said Marcie Hovatter.

"We could also create more jobs, in a sense, by doing that, if we were to start to try and hire people for, like, installing more solar panels and other types of power sources," said William Wigley.

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