



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
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UWUA CALLS FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSITION PLAN FOR WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY EPA’S PROPOSED CLEAN POWER REGS.

Washington, DC – Utility Workers Union of America National President D. Michael Langford kicked-off today’s first public hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Clean Power Plan with a call for the adoption of policies “that support the modernization of our existing power generation and transmission infrastructure, including the continued use of responsible coal-fired generation, coupled with concrete, long-term support for workers and communities who may become stranded in the process.”

Langford urged regulators to adopt a final rule that will “encourage the states to embrace in their State Implementation Plans concrete support for new technologies that will protect existing jobs while reducing emissions.” He added, “In our view, technologies such as carbon capture and sequestration are essential not only to protect the thousands of family-supporting jobs associated with coal-fired generation, but also an essential component of any workable plan to address climate change.”

The EPA’s proposed rule calls for reducing carbon emissions of existing power plants for the first time. EPA estimates that up to 50 gigawatts of coal-fired generation could be taken offline by 2030.

“We believe that any regulatory policy that transfers the full cost of compliance onto stranded workers and communities is bad policy,” Langford said, continuing, “In summary, the UWUA supports the need for bold action to address the challenges of climate change, but in the process we must avoid creating another Rust Belt that would result from a new wave of power plant closures caused by ill-conceived regulations. We believe this can be done while

also substantially reducing carbon emissions, if we combine sensible regulatory policies with a sound plan to assist affected workers and communities in the transition.

“In our view, the best way forward is to adopt policies that support the modernization of our existing power generation and transmission infrastructure, including the continued use of responsible coal-fired generation, coupled with concrete, long-term support for the workers and communities who may become stranded in the process.”

The Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), AFL-CIO represents more than 50,000 active members employed in the energy, electric, gas, steam, water, telecommunications, generation, and related professional, technical and service industries. The UWUA was chartered in August 1945 to replace the former Utility Workers Organizing Committee, the CIO union for utility workers. D. Michael Langford is the UWUA National President.