

Statement of Edward Perry on EPA's Clean Power  
Plan Proposed Rule for Existing Power Plants

My name is Edward Perry; I am an aquatic biologist working with the National Wildlife Federation on their global warming campaign.

For many, global warming is some event that is supposed to happen many years in the future, but as a life long fisherman and hunter, I and many of us who enjoy the outdoors can tell you that global warming is here, now, and is already affecting our fish and wildlife heritage.

Let's look at what is happening right now, with only a 1 ½ °F temperature increase in the last 100 years. These are not projections; these are facts. ~~We have had 35% of consecutive months where the global average temperature has been above the long-term average, and 10 of the hottest years on record have all occurred in the last 15 years.~~ Every decade in the past 40 years has been hotter than the previous decade and the last decade was the hottest on record. ~~If you are less than 30 years old, you've never had a month or year where the temperature was less than the long-term global average.~~ Sea level is rising, causing islands in the Pacific to go underwater and Norfolk Virginia is now experiencing almost weekly flooding. Glaciers around the world are melting; the land-based Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are breaking up at unprecedented rates; and the Arctic sea ice is at its all time lowest level in human history. Parts of our southwest are in the midst of a 14 yearlong drought, which many scientists believe may be the new normal. The drought has spawned raging wildfires and has extended the fire season by as much as 3 months. There have only been 3 times in the last 50 years when more than 9 million acres have burned, and they've all been in the last 6 years. And finally, our weather has become far more extreme, devastating our communities and causing our government to spend billions in disaster relief.

That's the national perspective, but Pennsylvania has not escaped the impacts of global warming.

According to the best science, our state fish, the brook trout, our state tree, the hemlock, and our state bird, the ruffed grouse are on their way out of Pennsylvania. Instead of getting late winter/early spring snowfalls like we used to get, we're now getting torrential downpours that drench grouse fledglings, causing hypothermia and death. In the past 30 years, Pennsylvania has lost over 28,000 breeding males, which has greatly affected grouse populations. Wildlife biologist forecast our state bird will eventually be gone from Pennsylvania. Warmer winters are allowing woolly adelgid populations to proliferate, and they're decimating hemlocks all across the northeast part of our country. Hemlocks are what we call a keystone species: They provide important ecological benefits to a wide array of species. For example, brook trout are so closely allied with hemlocks, they were once called hemlock trout. Hemlocks provide important thermal cover for brook trout during the heat of summer, so as the hemlocks go, so go our state fish. We've already lost over 35% of

*I heard your question about electricity  
reliability*

Pennsylvania's brook trout habitat and the forecast is for it to be extirpated from Pennsylvania by the year 2100.

Despite all the evidence and all the studies produced by the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world, Governor Corbett has stated he still believes there is still a significant debate in the scientific community as to whether global warming is happening or that we are the cause. ~~Actually, there are some scientists who still dispute global warming is happening, but they comprise about the same number as those who don't believe the Holocaust occurred or that we really didn't land a man on the moon. A recently completed study reviewed all scientific papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals from 1991 to 2011 that dealt with global warming and found that 97% of them determined the planet was heating up and our reliance on fossil fuels is the cause. For those who think the 3% could be right, just imagine yourself going to 100 doctors and 97 say you are desperately ill and need immediate treatment, but you listen to the three who say you are just fine. Who would do that?~~

Instead continuing to debate whether global warming is happening, we need to discuss how we are going to begin the long process of moving from fossil fuels and on to clean, renewable energy.

~~The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule gives the states wide latitude to accomplish the goal of reducing carbon pollution. But while the Governor's DEP has already issued a white paper for carbon rule compliance it admits would not be accepted by EPA. First Energy, my former utility, states that they are in a strong position to meet the proposed federal requirements.~~ *ALD MK*

So, here you have our Governor denying that global warming exists and requesting major pollution control exemptions for dirty coal plants, while a major utility announces they can meet EPA's rule - 15 years before the deadline. What's wrong with that picture?

So I am hear today to ask the Department of Environmental Protection to become our Nation's leader in tackling global warming by developing a viable plan that will reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants and get us on the path to clean renewable energy. It would be truly unfortunate if our state came up with a plan that was so unacceptable that EPA would be forced to come up with a plan for us.

The adverse impacts we are already seeing to our Nation's fish and wildlife resources should be our canary in the coalmine that we ignore at our peril. We have a moral imperative to tackle global warming that is causing the extreme weather events that are devastating our communities and wildlife. This is one problem we simply cannot pass on to our kids and grandkids.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.