

Testimony in Support of the Proposed Clean Power Plan Rule
Docket ID no. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602
on behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility Harrisburg-Hershey
Chapter
by James E. Jones MD 607 Hilltop Dr, New Cumberland, Pa 17070

Good afternoon,

I am **James E. Jones MD**, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather and a **retired pediatrician** who practiced in this area. I have **cared for many children with asthma gasping for breath** in the middle of the night. As a pediatrician, I believe we should prevent these frightening and dangerous attacks and thus I have been interested in the public health. I am also active on the Boards of our local **PSR Chapter and PennFuture**.

Even though air quality has improved over 50 years ago, much needs to be done .

First, 132 million Americans still live where the air is unhealthy to breath at least part of the year. Pennsylvania is one of the worst. **Coal fired power plants**, with the older ones the worse, are one of the major sources of this health threatening pollution. We have soot which includes very dangerous small **black carbon particles** which lodge deep in our lungs and some even pass into our blood stream. This causes dangerous damage to lungs and the cardiovascular system.

In addition, **ground level Ozone (O3)** is a dangerous pollutant that can irritate, trigger asthma attacks and cause permanent lung damage. Children are the most vulnerable as their lungs are still developing. Ozone is formed by the interaction of oxygen (O2), volatile organic carbons (VOC) from coal and oil, Nitrogen oxides and sunlight and heat.

Secondly, we have the very **real greenhouse effects of the tons of CO2** released by the inefficient burning of coal. **The scientific consensus** is that Global Warming is **real, caused by humans, and is serious**, requiring immediate action! This is **already affecting our health** with increased storms and floods and droughts to the heat waves, increasing invasion of disease carrying of mosquitoes and ticks.

This **Clean Power Rule** will include CO2 as a pollutant and reduce levels by 30% by 2030 from 2005 levels. Even if this is not a full solution, it is a good place to start. Increased energy efficiency means less pollution per KW. Along with conservation, a more rapid transition to renewable energy would

be the best and would likely prevent 150,000 asthma attacks by 2030 nationally.

In summary, our air continues to be polluted with ozone, small black carbon particles and rising CO2 levels. Our children are especially vulnerable. Implementing fully the Clean Power Rule is a step in the right direction !

Thank you for your time and attention.