

## Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)

<http://www.epa.gov/crossstaterule/>

Also see: <http://www.epa.gov/crossstaterule/bulletins.html>

On July 6, 2011, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule that protects the health of millions of Americans by helping states reduce air pollution and attain clean air standards. This rule, known as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), requires states to significantly improve air quality by reducing [power plant](#) emissions that contribute to [ozone](#) and/or [fine particle](#) pollution in other states. In a separate, but related, regulatory action, EPA finalized a supplemental rulemaking on December 15, 2011 to require five states – Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin – to make summertime NO<sub>x</sub> reductions under the CSAPR ozone season control program. CSAPR requires a total of 28 states to reduce annual SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, annual NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and/or ozone season NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to assist in attaining the 1997 ozone and fine particle and 2006 fine particle [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) (NAAQS). On February 7, 2012, EPA issued two sets of minor [adjustments](#) to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR).

This rule replaces EPA's 2005 [Clean Air Interstate Rule](#) (CAIR). A December 2008 court decision kept the requirements of CAIR in place temporarily but directed EPA to issue a new rule to implement Clean Air Act requirements concerning the transport of air pollution across state boundaries. This action responds to the court's concerns.

The United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued its [ruling](#) to stay the CSAPR pending judicial review. The court's decision is not a decision on the merits of the rule. EPA is ensuring the transition back to the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) occurs as seamlessly as possible. Please see our [Bulletins](#) page for updates on CSAPR and the continuing implementation of [CAIR](#).

## Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS)

<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics/basic.html>

### Basic Information

Until now there have been no federal standards that require power plants to limit their emissions of toxic air pollutants like mercury, arsenic and metals – despite the availability of proven control technologies, and the more than 20 years since the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments passed. These rules finalize standards to reduce air pollution from coal and oil-fired power plants under sections 111 (new source performance standards) and 112 (toxics program) of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments.

- Emissions standards set under the toxics program are federal air pollution limits that individual facilities must meet by a set date. EPA must set emission standards for existing sources in the category that are at least as stringent as the emission reductions achieved by the average of the top **12 percent** best controlled sources.

- These rules set technology-based emissions limitation standards for mercury and other toxic air pollutants, reflecting levels achieved by the best-performing sources currently in operation.
- The final rule sets standards for all hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) emitted by coal- and oil-fired electric generating units (EGUs) with a capacity of **25 megawatts** or greater.
- All regulated EGUs are considered major under the final rule. EPA did not identify any size, design or engineering distinction between major and area sources.
- Existing sources generally will have up to **4 years** if they need it to comply with MATS.
  - This includes the 3 years provided to all sources by the Clean Air Act. EPA's analysis continues to demonstrate that this will be sufficient time for most, if not all, sources to comply.
  - Under the Clean Air Act, state permitting authorities can also grant an additional year as needed for technology installation. EPA expects this option to be broadly available.
- The regulations issued today are under a Consent Decree of the D.C. Court of Appeals requiring EPA to issue a proposal by March 16, 2011, and a final rule in December 16, 2011.
- These standards are long overdue. In 2000, after years of study, EPA issued a scientific and legal determination that it was "appropriate and necessary" to control mercury emissions from power plants. The prior administration finalized a rule to cut mercury pollution from power plants, but the D.C. Circuit struck the rule down and required EPA to develop standards that follow the law and the science in order to protect human health and the environment.