



Contact: Ann B. Weeks
617-359-4077
aweeks@catf.us

Clean Air Task Force Comments on Announcement by U.S. EPA of Final Greenhouse Gas “Tailoring Rules,” Paving the Way for Regulation of Large Stationary Sources to Combat Climate Change

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 13 – U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson today signed final regulations that pave the way for the Agency to regulate the largest U.S. domestic stationary sources of the greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and several fluorocarbons) that the Administrator has previously held endanger public health and welfare. This action follows close on the heels of a final rule issued in late March that sets the stage for regulating vehicular sources of these same air pollutants.

Clean Air Task Force Senior Counsel and Legal Director Ann Weeks, who follows this issue for CATF, said:

“EPA is taking a powerful step forward towards regulating the largest stationary sources of the air pollutants that cause climate change. Greenhouse gases like CO₂ have long atmospheric lifetimes: a ton of CO₂ emitted today will still be having adverse effects on the global climate in 2100. By issuing today’s ruling, EPA Administrator Jackson has recognized that by acting now, we can begin to make a difference by 2050, avoiding the worst consequences of global climate change.”

U.S. EPA’s 2010 inventory of domestic greenhouse gas emissions and sinks shows that the combustion of fossil fuels accounts for over 90% of manmade CO₂ emissions in the U.S. in 2008. Additionally, existing power production facilities in the U.S. count for 40 % of total manmade CO₂ emissions here. These sources will ultimately be covered under today’s ruling.

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The Clean Air Task Force is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing atmospheric pollution through research, advocacy, and private sector collaboration. Visit us at www.catf.us.