

Before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Regarding

**Revisions to Federal Implementation Plans to Reduce
Interstate Transport**

of

Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone;

Proposed Rule

Docket No. EAP-HQ-OAR-2009-0491

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**Testimony of
David McCabe
Atmospheric Scientist**

**Clean Air Task Force
18 Tremont Street
Suite 530
Boston MA 02108**

Good morning. My name is David McCabe and I am Atmospheric Chemist with the Clean Air Task Force. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. Based in Boston, the Clean Air Task Force is a national nonprofit, environmental advocacy organization whose mission includes reducing the adverse health, environmental and climate impacts of power plants. Our staff and consultants include scientists, economists, MBA's, engineers, and attorneys.

Almost 15 years ago, EPA promulgated the 1997 air quality standards for fine particulate matter and 8-hour ozone. A more protective PM standard was established in 2006. Today, however, many areas throughout the East and Midwest continue to exceed these health-based standards. Emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from power plants are a major reason for this major public health failure. And because these emissions are often transported downwind into numerous states, EPA must use the "good neighbor" provision of the Clean Air Act to correct this failure.

EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule, finalized almost 7 years ago, was intended to address this problem of transported power plant pollution. However, CAIR was invalidated by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, and this summer EPA finalized CAIR's replacement, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. This new transport rule is one of the most important and beneficial air pollution rules EPA has ever issued. It will improve air quality for 240 million Americans. It will prevent an estimated 13,000 to 34,000 premature deaths each year, and will create \$120 to \$280 billion in annual monetized benefits to American society.

And it will provide these enormous health benefits at a very small comparable cost—less than \$1 billion.

Earlier this month, EPA proposed several revisions to its Cross-State rule. First, EPA proposed to make adjustments to the emissions budgets of a number of states to reflect corrections in certain unit-specific modeling assumptions used in establishing those budgets. Secondly, EPA proposed to delay the effectiveness of the assurance provisions from 2012 to 2014. We of course agree that EPA should use accurate and correct data in promulgating the rule's state emission budgets. However, we also strongly agree with EPA that any additional claims of incorrect data should be brought to EPA's attention immediately, but no later than November 28, the deadline for comments on the proposed revisions.

We are continuing to study EPA's proposal, and may provide written comments by the November deadline.

But the main point we wish to stress is that EPA must wrap this corrections process up as soon as possible, and get on with implementing the rule. Industry has managed to delay for years implementation of reductions in power plant air pollution that has impacted millions of Americans and prevented many areas of the country from attaining the health-based air quality standards for ozone and PM. EPA must not allow that delay to extend any longer than it already has. The lives of tens of thousands of Americans depend on it, as do the health of millions more.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.