

ND and SD lawmakers write EPA to oppose haze plan

The delegations oppose the EPA's re-proposed plan to override Wyoming's state implementation plan.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative - August 9, 2013

North Dakota and South Dakota lawmakers wrote Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy on Aug. 8 to oppose the EPA's plans to override the state of Wyoming's efforts to reduce haze from power plants.

The EPA's re-proposed federal implementation plan (FIP) partially approves and partially disapproves Wyoming's state implementation plan for regional haze regulation under the Clean Air Act.

Approval of the re-proposed FIP would cost [Basin Electric](#) approximately \$750 million in emission control upgrades to [Laramie River Station](#), Wheatland, WY, which Basin Electric owns with five other participants of the [Missouri Basin Power Project](#). Basin Electric operates the facility.

EPA's plan "requires the installation of much more costly technology on several plants in the state," said the lawmakers, including SD Sens. John Thune and Tim Johnson, ND Sens. John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp, SD Rep. Kristi Noem and ND Rep. Kevin Cramer. The installation of that technology "could potentially be very costly to ratepayers across the region, including approximately 700,000 South Dakotans and North Dakotans, many of them living in rural areas in our states."

Several plants will be required to install selective catalytic reduction technologies to reduce nitrogen oxide levels, which the lawmakers said "could potentially amount to more than \$1 billion in capital costs and millions of dollars in annual operating expenses."

Wyoming offered a plan calling "for upgrades that cost a fraction of that expenditure, with a negligible difference in benefits to visibility," the letter said.

The lawmakers asked EPA to revisit its decision, and analyze whether the agency has grounds to impose a federal plan.