

Multi-Emissions Legislation

Reasonable and consistent air quality regulations are needed to encourage repair and maintenance of power plants, and protect worker safety. A well-designed "multi-emission approach" would be easier to enforce, eliminate existing disincentives for plant repairs, retrofits, and improvements that create work for boilermakers, while guaranteeing additional major reductions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury.

The current system results in more dangerous, less efficient power plants and boilers. The existing patchwork of regulations on power plant air emissions is complex, contentious and inefficient. The Environmental Protection Agency's interpretation of New Source Review makes plants more reliant on deteriorating components, resulting in less efficient, less reliable and higher emitting power generation. For example, the efficiency of steam boiler equipment decreases over time as components deteriorate, yet EPA's interpretation of New Source Review could have a routine and necessary replacement activity declared non-routine.

Policies that delay improvements or lead to fuel-switching from coal to natural gas would only worsen our problems keeping good paying jobs here at home. A multi-emissions approach, such as the Clear Skies Act, provides a protective approach on clean air that maintains the competitiveness of our industrial facilities, keeping work from being outsourced. By ensuring a continued role for coal and providing greater regulatory certainty, multi-emissions legislation will promote stable energy prices that are necessary for the economic growth that creates good paying manufacturing and industrial jobs.

Status:

S. 131, the Clear Skies Act of 2005, is pending in the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works. The House has not considered multi-emissions legislation in the 109th Congress.

Boilermakers' Message to Senators and Representatives:

- Support legislation to reduce air pollution through a multi-emissions "cap and trade" program, such as S. 131.