

NEWS RELEASE



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers® AFL-CIO-CLC

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Statement of IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill On the Court of Appeals Stay of the EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)

WASHINGTON D.C.: The IBEW welcomes the Dec. 30, 2011, order of the United States Court of Appeals to stay the implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's cross-state air pollution rule (CSAPR).

As a party to the case seeking review of these rules, we have long maintained that the policy rationale for the EPA's rule-making is valid, but the timeline is not. We believe that the best balance of environmental and reliability concerns will only be achieved through legislation, in the form of the bi-partisan Manchin-Coats clean air proposal (the Fair Compliance Act of 2011, S.1833), which would give coal-fired utilities more time to invest in retrofitting plants to decrease emissions. Under this bill, utilities would be required to submit an implementation plan laying out how they would retrofit and retire plants in advance of the Jan. 1, 2017, compliance deadline. This would help safeguard the reliability of the electrical grid and reduce job loss due to plant closures.

A realistic time frame will give utilities further opportunity to assess their generation capacity, phase out inefficient plants and introduce cleaner plants, without endangering their ability to meet the needs of consumers and manufacturers. We once again call on Congress to take full advantage of the time granted by the court and act expeditiously on the Manchin-Coats bill.

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The [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](http://www.ibew.org) (IBEW) represents approximately 725,000 members who work in a wide variety of fields, including construction, utilities, manufacturing, telecommunications, broadcasting, railroads and government.