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### **DENR Seeks Public Input on EPA Clean Power Plan for South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is taking a two-pronged approach as it prepares to respond to the controversial federal Clean Power Plan. The plan, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), seeks to reduce carbon emissions from electrical-generating plants.

First, DENR is participating in a lawsuit that attempts to stop the new rules from becoming effective. The South Dakota Attorney General joined a lawsuit with 24 states opposing the Clean Power Plan.

The second prong is to develop a South Dakota proposal for putting the new Clean Power Plan rules into effect, should the lawsuit fail. To develop the proposal, the department will seek public input in the coming months, request a two-year extension from EPA by the Sept. 6, 2016 deadline and then finalize a state Clean Power Plan for submittal to EPA by Sept. 6, 2018.

DENR has developed a webpage at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/aq/aacleanpowerplan.aspx> to keep people apprised of progress made on both prongs. The website will provide information about how the department plans to meet federal timelines, make announcements about upcoming public meetings and where people can provide public input during the process.

“People need to become informed about EPA’s Clean Power Plan because its purpose is to promote alternate sources of electricity that emit less carbon,” said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. “As the plan moves forward, everyone who uses electricity and who pays an electric bill will have a stake in the plan.”

EPA’s Clean Power Plan will have a direct impact on two power plants in South Dakota. The first is the coal-fired Big Stone Power Plant near Milbank. The second is the natural gas-fired combined-cycle Deer Creek Station power plant near White. Each provides electricity to different customers.

In the federal rule, EPA used 2012 as the base year for carbon emissions from power plants. During 2012, 74 percent of the electricity generated in South Dakota was from renewable sources. This included 50 percent from the hydroelectric power plants at the Missouri River dams and 24 percent from wind generation. However, much of this energy was exported and used by people outside of South Dakota.