



AMERICAN COALITION FOR CLEAN COAL ELECTRICITY

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ACCCE Statement Regarding Washington State CO₂ Underground Injection and Power Plant Emission Performance Standards

Alexandria, VA – The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE) today released this statement in response to standards issued by the state of Washington addressing the injection of carbon dioxide (CO₂) underground and power plant emission performance:

“ACCCE applauds Washington for its efforts to adopt the country’s first standards for underground injection of CO₂.

“The United States has 600-1000 years of storage capability. Washington has taken a leadership role by identifying CO₂ injection and storage capabilities in deep rock formations, also known as geologic sequestration.

“By furthering the development and deployment of technologies such as carbon capture and storage, we are making progress toward the coal-based electricity industry’s ultimate goal of producing electricity with near zero emissions, including the capture and storage of CO₂.

“However, ACCCE expresses deep concern with the state’s decision to enact emissions performance standards for power plants effective July 19.

“The coal-based electricity sector has made tremendous progress investing more than \$50 billion dollars in technology to reduce emissions. The result has translated into a coal-based generating fleet that is 70 percent cleaner on the basis of regulated emissions per unit of energy produced.

“The emissions performance standard enacted by the state of Washington has a negative impact in three areas.

“First, the standard does not allow ample time for the continued development and commercial deployment of technology that addresses its regulations.

“Forcing such regulations in short time sets the bar too high and establishes limits or timelines that, even with aggressive action, technology can’t meet.

“Second, one state, or even a region, cannot alone adequately address the issue of global climate change.

“Individual state or regional laws such as Washington’s emission performance standards create an unnecessary patchwork of requirements that will be both ineffective in addressing environmental concerns and costly to Washington consumers.

“By focusing on such programs, there is a strong chance that state and/or regional mandates will conflict with future federal mandates, in essence double taxing states where local mandates reside. This would result in increased economic hardship for the working families of Washington.

“It also becomes nearly impossible for other countries to leverage any number of strategies enacted by several states or regions. Instead, ACCCE believes a single federal program is much easier to adapt elsewhere to address what is a global challenge.

“Third, the emissions performance standard will impede electricity being imported from other states if that electricity fails to meet its regulations. This would require Washington to narrow its energy portfolio, and in many cases, increase its reliance on fuels both volatile and in short supply. The result would be increased hardship on Washington families through higher electricity costs.

“There are better ways states can continue environmental progress and address climate change without harming the economy, including increasing energy efficiency programs and funding advanced clean coal technology that can achieve real and measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions without putting Washington’s economy at risk and forcing Washington families to face a huge increase in electricity costs.

“ACCCE urges the state of Washington to weight the impacts this standard has on both the working families of Washington and the continued development and deployment of clean coal technology.”

About ACCCE

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE) is a non-profit, non-partisan partnership of companies involved in producing electricity from coal. Because coal is America’s most abundant energy resource, ACCCE supports energy policies that balance coal’s vital role in meeting our country’s growing need for affordable and reliable electricity with the need to protect the environment. ACCCE also advocates for the development and deployment of advanced clean coal technologies that will produce electricity with near-zero emissions. Headquartered in Alexandria, VA, ACCCE has more than 40 members that represent more than \$190 billion in annual revenues and employ more than 360,000 Americans. For more information, visit www.cleancoalusa.org or www.americaspower.org.

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