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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Unions press Trump administration for more limited carbon rule

By Alex Guillén

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A coalition of unions this week asked the Trump administration to rescind EPA's Clean Power Plan and then write a more limited version of the landmark power plant rule.

The unions, including the United Mine Workers of America, Utility Workers Union of America and the AFL-CIO, said in a June 26 meeting with OMB officials that repealing the CPP "is a critical step in reducing future job losses in the coal generation, transportation, and mining sectors," according to [documents](#) posted on OMB's website.

The unions went on to note that Supreme Court precedents and EPA's 2009 endangerment finding require EPA to regulate in some manner. EPA should instead write a rule that obtains "inside the fence" reductions by achieving efficiency improvements at existing coal-fired power plants, according to the unions.

However, the unions acknowledged, heat rate improvements at coal plants "are not very effective in reducing CO2 emissions" and would only achieve a 2-3 percent emissions reduction. EPA said the CPP would have secured a 32 percent reduction in power generation emissions, although utilities have already achieved some of that.

EPA could allow trading to minimize costs and should "provide credit for past reductions," the unions suggested. They also called for reforms to EPA's New Source Review permitting program.

In addition, OMB and EPA officials [met March 22](#) with advocates from the NRDC. Documents from that meeting showed that the environmental group advocated against rescinding the CPP.

WHAT'S NEXT: OMB will continue to review EPA's proposed rule to withdraw the CPP before its anticipated release later this summer.

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