To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Thur 11/2/2017 4:48:52 PM
Subject: EPA announces Clean Power Plan withdrawal meeting in West Virginia

By Emily Holden

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EPA will hold a public hearing about the decision to withdraw the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan in West Virginia on Nov. 28 and 29.

"The EPA is headed to the heart of coal country to hear from those most impacted by the CPP and get their comments on the proposed Repeal Rule. The agency looks forward to hearing from all interested stakeholders," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

EPA said it will convene two daylong sessions at the state capitol in Charleston, but did not explain its decision to only schedule meetings in the coal-reliant state, rather than collecting input from around the country, including from green states and businesses who disagree with the rollback. The agency said it "may also hold an additional hearing to be announced at a later date."

EPA also extended the comment period on the proposal to Jan. 16, 2018.

When the Obama administration proposed the power-sector climate standards in 2015, the agency had meetings in Pittsburgh, Denver, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

West Virginia is the biggest coal producer east of the Mississippi River and also generates almost all of its power from the fuel. But the state's biggest utility is a subsidiary of AEP, which has been shifting away from coal and toward cheaper natural gas and renewable power for years.

"AEP has factored future carbon regulations into our evaluation of generation resource options for many years, and we continue to do so," spokeswoman Tammy Ridout told POLITICO last month.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA said it may extend the West Virginia public hearing to a third day if necessary. Registration information will be posted on EPA's website.

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