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Affiliations added for identification
purposes only

October 31, 2017

Peter Tsirigotis
Sector Policies and Programs Division (D205-01)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
airaction@epa.gov

RE: Request to Hold a Public Hearing On Proposed Repeal of the Clean Power Plan

Dear Mr. Tsirigotis,

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, a national nursing organization focused on promoting health through addressing environmental health concerns, our organization respectfully requests a public hearing on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan – America’s only nation-wide limit on climate-destabilizing pollution from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. Nurses work in every community and see the impacts of environmental health policy across all populations; without support of the EPA in addressing climate change these impacts will only worsen. A public hearing will provide an essential forum for the health community, the public, and the populations we care for to raise concerns related to this deeply harmful and reckless proposal.

Your proposed repeal of America’s first and only federal limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, not only puts the health of our communities at a greater risk, but also disregards EPA’s legal obligation to regulate harmful pollutants set forth by the Clean Air Act. Nurses are already seeing the affects of climate change on health, including worsening of asthma and other chronic respiratory conditions from wildfire smoke exposure and poor air quality on extreme heat days; premature deaths related to air pollution and extreme weather; increases in vector-borne disease transmission and geographic expansion – such as Lyme disease and Zika; and mental health impacts resulting from extreme weather events.

Responding to climate change demands urgent and immediate action to protect the health of all Americans, especially our most vulnerable— children, the elderly, low-income communities, and individuals with chronic diseases. The Clean Power Plan is projected to prevent 90,000 asthma attacks, 300,000 missed work and school days, and 3,600 premature deaths annually by 2030. By repealing these standards, we



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will see more sick children, more hospital visits, and more premature deaths that could have been prevented.

Prior to issuing the proposed Clean Power Plan in 2014, EPA engaged in extensive outreach to the public to solicit ideas and input on the design of a program to reduce carbon pollution from the power sector. This process stands in stark contrast to the total absence of public hearings that preceded your proposed action. It is essential for the public to have a location accessible to a diverse array of impacted individuals to air their concerns and provide input on such a momentous action that will greatly impact our communities and families. These hearings should be held in Washington and in places across this country where Americans are experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change and the deaths and illnesses caused by power plant pollution.

For these reason, we request a public hearing under sections 307(d)(5) of the Clean Air Act on your proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan. We emphasize that this hearing must provide a meaningful opportunity for public participation, just as EPA afforded on the proposed Clean Power Plan – meaning that it must be held in a broadly accessible location, be scheduled for a reasonable duration, and allow sufficient time for individual organizations and members of the public to provide meaningful input.

Sincerely,

Katie Huffling, MS, RN, CNM
Executive Director
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments