



Delaware Interfaith Power & Light, Inc.

A Religious Response to Climate Change

www.DelawareIPL.org

EPA Docket Center,
Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket ID Number EPA–HQ–OAR–2017–0355,

These comments are regarding the proposed rules to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

BACKGROUND

Delaware Interfaith Power & Light is one of 40 state affiliates of the national Interfaith Power & Light (IPL), initiated in California in 1998. DeIPL was founded in 2011, currently has 24 member congregations throughout Delaware and is growing steadily. Our mission is to provide a religious response to climate change through promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental justice strategies.

We consider our work – whether sharing scriptures, hosting workshops, distributing eco-kits, expanding green space, coordinating solar energy projects, creating partnerships or meeting with legislators - a moral imperative. Our goal, ultimately, is to assure the preservation of a healthy, sustainable planet; but, closer to home, to improve the everyday quality of life of our families, our neighbors and our communities.

REPEAL OF CLEAN POWER PLAN

Recently, under the Trump administration, the US Global Change Research Program, a collaboration of 13 Federal agencies and departments, published the National Climate Assessment. The Executive Summary states that during a period of 115 years, from 1901 to 1961, “Global annually averaged surface air temperature has increased by about 1.8°F”. It further states that “...it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.”

Furthermore, today’s Earth is the warmest it has ever been in the history of modern civilization. Here is a bit more of reality. 2017: The largest wildfire in California’s history; more \$1 billion weather events and climate disasters than since we started recording such things in 1980 — three times above average; US Hurricanes? How about Harvey, Irma and Maria — all category-four hurricanes when they made landfall in the U.S, costing trillions of dollars of damage; Global Warming? Sixteen of the warmest years on record for the globe occurred in the last 17 years, with unprecedented heat waves swept across the globe, Australia started the year with temperatures near 122F; The past three years have been the warmest in recorded European history; global sea levels reached a new high in 2017, with



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the polar ice caps melting at an accelerating pace. According to the Trump report, Delaware could have 8 feet of sea level rise by 2000 if we don't do anything different.

Here in Delaware, we are already experiencing sea level rise, droughts and floods, and extreme weather previously unheard of. And, because in part of dirty power generation, Delaware's air continues to earn the grade of F from the American Lung Association. Delawareans are at risk. We must do better, can do better. The Clean Power Plan was such a vehicle to provide for a livable future.

The repeal of the Clean Power Plan not only will halt needed progress to avert catastrophic climate change, it will stifle development of long term adaptation solutions that could well prevent our ecosystem from becoming uninhabitable over the next millennia. Additionally, the repeal will hinder economic gain through the natural creation of clean and sustainable energy related jobs. One example is the option under CPP for the Clean Energy Incentive Program.

CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

CEIP programs were designed for a triple win for America; 1) Creating of well-paying jobs in our first line communities that 2) improved energy reduction in existing buildings, reducing energy burdens on our increasing low-income residents, which also 3) reduced pollution from fossil fueled power generation. CEIP-eligible projects include new wind and solar projects and end-use energy efficiency programs targeted at low-income communities.

CONCLUSIONS

Responding to the existential crisis of Global Warming will require mitigation of the causes, which according to 97% of climate scientists are pollution from fossil fuel conversion to energy and will require the movement to clean sources of energy. The Clean Power Plan would have helped, in a major way, addressing the energy conservation side of the equation, while fostering attainable jobs. We strongly reject the repeal of CPP and urge to EPA to work with Congress to further its adoption in all fifty states.

John Sykes, President Emeritus

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