

The Times-Tribune

Get to work on Clean Power Plan Pennsylvania in solid position to comply with regulations
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Now that a federal appeals court has rejected an effort to halt implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, Pennsylvania's government should get to work on compliance. The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia last week refused to issue a stay against the program. About two dozen Republican-controlled state governments and an array of companies heavily invested in fossil fuels and related enterprises had sought the stay pending the resolution of other lawsuits against the proposal.

The EPA proposal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030, mostly from coal-fired power plants. Under the program, each state would formulate a plan to meet its goal.

Pennsylvania is uniquely situated to achieve its goal and should proceed with formulating a specific plan.

Power generators already have shuttered seven coal-fired plants in Pennsylvania and plan to convert several others to use abundant, inexpensive and comparatively clean natural gas. Several new gas plants are under construction or planned, including two in Lackawanna County. And the Wolf administration wants to restart a program, which the Corbett administration foolishly had killed, to advance solar energy. Because of robust, consistent winds along its Appalachian ridges, Pennsylvania also is a prime state for wind power development.

Given the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change and the potential for new sources of energy, Pennsylvania should take advantage of its resources to promote environmental protection and economic development.