

**New Source Performance Standards
Talking Points
February 2, 2011**

Currently, there are no limits on the amount of carbon pollution spewed into the air by power plants and refineries, but by establishing safeguards – called New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) – the EPA will be able set reasonable limits on pollution from new and existing polluters. EPA has committed to issuing carbon pollution standards for the biggest polluters, power plants and refineries, in the next two years and will this week kick off five listening forums to hear from stakeholders on this issue. The schedule:

Feb. 4, 2011: Washington, DC with Utilities

Feb. 15, 2011: Atlanta, GA with Environmental and Environmental Justice Communities

Feb. 17, 2011: Chicago, IL with State and Tribal Representatives

Feb. 23, 2011: Washington, DC with Coalition Group Representatives

March 4, 2011: Washington, DC with Refineries

More details [here](#).

What are New Source Performance Standards?

- The Environmental Protection Agency is working to establish new standards to limit carbon pollution from the nation's biggest polluters – power plants and refineries.
- Currently, there are *no limits* on the amount of carbon pollution spewed into the air by power plants and refineries, but by establishing safeguards – called New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) – the EPA will be able set reasonable limits on pollution from new and existing polluters.

What are the benefits of these standards?

- Carbon pollution poses serious threats to Americans' health, our economy and our future, but there are currently *no limits* on the amount of carbon pollution being spewed into the air.
- These air quality standards allow EPA to focus on the industries that create the lion's share of the nation's carbon pollution and will help to improve the lives and health of millions of Americans who suffer from asthma and other life-threatening illnesses. Carbon pollution is linked to other types of pollution such as soot and smog that worsen asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. By decreasing carbon pollution, which is currently being spewed without any limits, the EPA's commonsense safeguards will go far in helping Americans with asthma and other respiratory problems breathe easier.
- Because there is currently no national standard for limiting carbon pollution, different power plants in different states have conflicting standards for controlling pollution, putting some businesses at a disadvantage. The national standard set forth by the

EPA would level the playing field across states and provide businesses with certainty and a fair shake.

- What's more, air pollution knows no boundaries or state lines. Without a clear, national standard to safeguard against pollution, many Americans will continue breathing dirty air that has blown across state lines – even if their home state enforces pollution limits. These new standards from EPA would improve Americans' air quality and help children with asthma breathe easier.
- EPA's plan will set clear goals for cleaning up the way we power our country -- a move that will make for healthier kids and families and create much-needed jobs.

What's the timing for these new safeguards?

- EPA has committed to issuing carbon pollution standards for the biggest polluters, power plants and refineries, in the next two years. Once in effect, these safeguards will improve air quality and the health of the millions of Americans, while reducing carbon pollution.
- EPA will issue the final NSPS for power plants in May 2012, and the final NSPS for oil refineries in November 2012. Once the EPA issues these safeguards, state agencies will begin plans to reduce carbon pollution from new and existing power plants and refineries.
- The EPA's standards will only affect the biggest, dirtiest sources of pollution, power plants and oil refineries. The standards will be based on existing technology that is available, proven and affordable for the power plants and refineries that are affected. There is no reason why these big polluters shouldn't be using these tools. The EPA, however, will not mandate any particular technology, giving businesses and state agencies flexibility to decide how to operate while reducing pollution.