

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MONTEZUMA COUNTY
01-10-2011 UPDATE ON EPA RULEMAKING CONCERNING THE FOUR CORNERS
GENERATING STATION

I. SUMMARY: The EPA's proposal last fall to require additional pollution controls at the Four Corners Power Plants is on a temporary hold, pending EPA review of new proposals by the plant operator, and the comment period has been extended to March 18, 2011.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed (Oct. 6, 2010) additional pollution controls for the Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP) located on the Navajo Nation near Farmington, NM. The EPA is proposing to require the FCPP to meet a plant-wide limit representing an 80% reduction in emissions oxides of nitrogen to achieve cleaner air while improving the visibility at sixteen national parks and wilderness areas. The EPA's proposal can be achieved by installing and operating selective catalytic reduction (SCR) on all five units. The EPA is also proposing a particulate emission limit for the three smaller units that will require additional controls for fine particles. Reduction of fine particles may help reduce the visible secondary plume that is often emanating from these three units. The EPA is requesting comment on the proposed action. **The comment period has been extended to March 18, 2011.** Related documents for additional information and instructions on how to submit comments are available on the EPA Region 9 website (www.epa.gov/region9/air/navajo) under public notices.

II. EPA open houses and public hearings

Because of new information provided by the Arizona Public Service Company, the previously scheduled open house and public hearings for EPA's proposed action have been postponed, and rescheduling has not yet been determined. The EPA will provide notice on the new schedule for open houses and hearings on the EPA Region 9 website, and in local newspapers at least 30 days prior to these events.

III. Arizona Public Service (APS) proposed alternative to EPA proposal

On November 9, 2010, the EPA met with representatives from Arizona Public Service (APS), co-owner and operator of FCPP. The APS discussed an alternative proposal to shut down Generating Units 1 – 3 at FCPP by 2014 and installing SCR on Units 4 and 5 by 2018. APS believes this plan will result in larger emissions reductions than EPA's proposal without layoffs at the facility. The EPA will make the APS alternative proposal and supporting analysis available from the EPA's docket when it is received. When and if the EPA supplements its original proposal, a supplemental notice will be issued in the Federal Register and the EPA will provide supporting documentation in the docket. Therefore, the EPA is extending the public comment period for its proposal to March 18, 2011 and is postponing the scheduled open houses and public hearings to allow EPA and the public time to assess the alternative proposal submitted by APS.