



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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AG Bruning Calls for Withdrawal of Costly EPA Rule

LINCOLN - Attorney General Bruning filed a letter requesting the withdrawal of a proposed EPA rule that imposes onerous requirements on a Nebraska public utility regarding sulfur dioxide emissions. The EPA rule, which mandated the use of flue gas desulfurization, was proposed after the federal agency rejected a portion of Nebraska's regional haze state implementation plan in March 2012.

“This proposed rule is another example of an overreaching EPA acting outside of its authority, seeking to substitute its judgment for that of the State's,” said Bruning. “We will continue to push back against these federal intrusions while protecting Nebraska's resources.”

After an extensive study, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) determined no further sulfur dioxide controls were needed at the Gerald Gentlemen Station (GGS) coal-fired energy plant operated by the Nebraska Public Power District. NDEQ's study focused on compliance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and EPA regulations as well as local area needs.

In contrast, EPA's proposed federal implementation plan would require multi-million dollar modifications to GGS, resulting in long-term environmental losses with only minimal short-term gains. In addition, due to significant additional water requirements needed for further controls at GGS, EPA's plan would not only be exceedingly expensive, it could also negatively impact water availability for agricultural needs of the area.

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