

Reform Movement Hails Clean Power Plan

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Washington, D.C., August 3, 2015 – The Environmental Protection Agency released its final rule for the Clean Power Plan today, which requires states to significantly reduce carbon emissions through regulating coal power plants along with other mitigation strategies. Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center, issued the following statement:

“Today’s Clean Power Plan announced by President Obama is a landmark step in the fight against global climate change. The final rule will position the United States as a global leader in energy efficiency. In creating the first ever national standard for power plants, the rule will ensure that power plants reduce carbon pollution, soot, and other air pollutants that effect our health and contribute significantly to climate change. The Clean Power Plan, crafted to allow the greatest possible flexibility for individual states, will be implemented according to state-specific needs across the country.

As sea levels and global temperatures rise and as global crop viability and water access decrease, the need for bold action to address climate change becomes ever more clear and urgent. As a Movement, we believe that it is our responsibility to act as environmental stewards and partners with God in tilling and tending the earth, as humankind was commanded in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). The Reform Movement has long advocated for the Clean Power Plan through testimony and hundreds of comments from our clergy and lay people across the United States. This rule is just one of many ways that states, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency, can complete the sacred work of safeguarding both our earth’s natural resources and communities impacted by our changing climate.”

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The **Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism** is the Washington office of the **Union for Reform Judaism**, whose nearly **900 congregations** across North America encompass **1.5 million Reform Jews**, and the **Central Conference of American Rabbis**, whose membership includes more than **2,000 Reform rabbis**. Visit www.rac.org for more.