



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

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COAL INDUSTRY STUDY PROJECTS MORE COSTS AND PLANT RETIREMENTS THAN EPA HAS INDICATED

The American Coalition for clean coal electricity released modeling that indicates far higher costs and coal plant retirements than EPA has projected. An October 16th model released by NERA Economic Consulting projects much higher environmental compliance costs than EPA causing significant economic impacts to the sector. The estimated costs are "far outpacing" the costs of all Clean Air Act rules for power plants [projected by] EPA in 2010.

It is also predicted that between 97 and 220 gigawatts of existing coal fired power will shutter. Although EPA, in response to the study indicated that this is mainly industry rhetoric, information from not just EPA but also other Departments and Agencies in the federal government has indicated a significant time lag in environmental knowledge as regulatory projections as compared to what is happening in the real world change quickly, principally due to fundamental changes in the large amount of low cost natural gas coming to market.

Cleaner air for the United States is a positive result, including lower emissions of greenhouse gas. A secondary aspect of the industry changes however, is that there are a significant number of coal fired power plants that have onsite coal ash disposal facilities that cause ongoing environmental concern, because they were not properly constructed and in many instances they may not have been properly closed.

Gary Brown, RT's President, testified in federal court in the Tennessee Valley Authority/ Kingston Case, which is perhaps the most significant example of waste materials allowed to be saturated and not properly managed to prevent an unpermitted discharge in close proximity to waters of the United States.

This fundamental economic problem should receive attention by state environmental authorities as EPA does not appear able to make timely decisions on this issue. Pennsylvania, although it is a major historic coal producing state, dealt

with these problems long ago and New Jersey has few, if any, coal impoundment disposal areas which have not already been dealt with.

Early closure of coal fired power plant facilities and closure without having funds to properly manage onsite waste is a significant ongoing environmental concern which is not being properly dealt with in many locations throughout the United States.



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