The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule
Health and Economic Benefits for Missouri

To protect states afflicted by air pollution from outside their borders, EPA finalized the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule to reduce harmful emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) from power plants in the eastern half of the U.S. These clean air protections are called for under the ―Good Neighbor‖ provision of the Clean Air Act – a provision ensuring that air pollution discharged by power plants in an upwind state do not contribute to unhealthy pollution levels in downwind states. These protections will help downwind states suffering from this harmful pollution restore healthy air for their citizens and maintain compliance with the health-based national ambient air quality standards.

Under this rule, harmful pollution will be significantly reduced: SO2 emissions from power plants in the eastern half of the U.S. would be reduced 73% and NOx emissions would be reduced 54%. Nationally, this rule will save up to 34,000 lives, prevent 400,000 asthma attacks, and avoid 1.8 million lost work or sick days each year once in place. The economic value of these benefits is estimated at $120–280 billion each year. These benefits don't even account for the value of increased agricultural crop and commercial forest yields, improvements to visibility, and reduced nitrogen and acid deposition.

Missourians will reap vital health benefits from this rule.

Outside pollution from 19[1] states is currently impairing Missouri's air quality. Reducing pollution from both out of state and in-state sources will save up to 846 lives[2] and will prevent 379 heart attacks, 217 hospitalizations, and 213 ER visits in Missouri every year. Air quality improvement from this rule could benefit the over 1.4 million children at risk for asthma in Missouri.[3] These reductions will also prevent 40,102 lost work days due to these illnesses and provide approximately $6.9 billion[4] in benefits to Missouri each year. These benefits are just those related to avoided mortality, but there are other important health and environmental benefits not quantified here. Under these clean air protections, the quantified health benefits for Missouri are more than the state plans to spend on primary, secondary, and higher education; human services; and public safety combined in FY 2012[5]— in other words, these billions of dollars in health benefits are very good news for Missourians.

as many as 846 lives saved in Missouri each year

[1] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act."
http://www.epa.gov/cleanairactbenefits/whereyoulive/

[2] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ―Regulatory Impact Analysis for the Federal Implementation Plans to Reduce Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone in 27 States; Correction of SIP Approvals for 22 States,‖ June 2011 and Supplemental Information. http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/pdfs/FinalRIA.pdf

[3] American Lung Association. Pediatric asthma estimates are for those under 18 years of age and represent the estimated number of children who had asthma during 2009 based on age-specific national rates (NHIS) applied to age-specific county population estimates (US Census). http://www.lungusa.org/finding-cures/our-research/trend-reports/estimated-prevalence.pdf

[4] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Estimate in 2007 dollars. See excel spreadsheet at:
http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/benefitsmap.html

[5] The Governor of Missouri's recommended operating budget for FY 2012 requests spending in the following amounts: $2.448 billion for human services; $2.727 billion for elementary and secondary education; $0.822 billion for higher education; and $0.653 billion for corrections and public safety. Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2012 Budget Information: http://oa.mo.gov/bp/pdffiles/2012presspacket.pdf, p. 4.