Cross-State Air Pollution Rule in New Hampshire

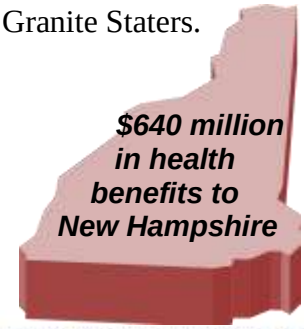
Cutting Pollution Coming into New Hampshire

To protect states afflicted by air pollution from outside their borders, EPA finalized the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) 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.

Granite Staters will reap vital health benefits from this rule.

New Hampshire has no emissions reductions requirements of its own under the CSAPR, but will see substantial health and environmental benefits due to pollution reductions from upwind states. The pollution reductions made by states that are covered by the rule will save lives in New Hampshire and will prevent 40 heart attacks, 15 hospitalizations, and 15 ER visits every year. Air quality improvement from this rule could benefit the over 289,000 children at risk for asthma in New Hampshire.[1] These reductions will also prevent 4,182 lost work days due to these illnesses and provide about $640 million[2] in benefits to New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire are about what the state spent on hospitals, health, and highways combined in 2009[3]—in other words, this half a billion dollars in health benefits is very good news for Granite Staters.



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[1] 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

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

[3] The U.S. Census reports that New Hampshire spent approximately $477 million on highways; $103 million on health, and $55 million on hospitals in 2009: http://www.census.gov/govs/state/.