



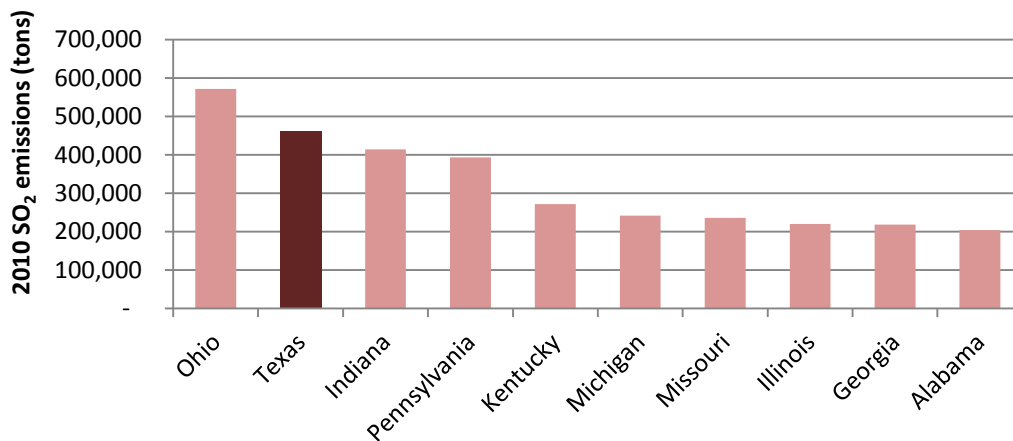
The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule

Health and Economic Benefits for Texas

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 (NO_x) from power plants in the eastern half of the U.S. These clean air protections are called for under the —Good Neighborl 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.

Air pollution from Texas' coal plants is, like many things in Texas, giant sized and with devastating health impacts. Texas power plants collectively are the nation's largest emitter of NO_x and the second largest emitter of SO₂.

Power Plant Pollution: Ten States with Highest SO₂ Emissions



Texans will reap vital health benefits from this rule.

Outside pollution from 17¹ states is currently impairing Texas' air quality. Reducing pollution from both out of state and in-state sources will save up to 1,704 lives² each year and will prevent 712 heart attacks, 414 hospitalizations, and 665 ER visits in Texas every year. Air quality improvement from this rule could benefit the over 6.89 million children at risk for asthma in Texas.³ These reductions will also prevent 113,128 lost work days due to these illnesses and provide approximately \$14 billion in benefits to Texas each year.⁴ 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 Texas could amount to more than what the state spent on health, highways, and hospitals combined in 2009⁵—in other words, these billions of dollars in health benefits are very good news for Texans.

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 U.S. Census reports that Texas spent \$3.8 billion on health, \$2.5 billion on hospitals, and \$6.8 billion on highways in 2009: <http://www.census.gov/govs/state/>.