



Biomass Power Association Statement on Proposed Carbon Standards

Washington, DC – June 2, 2014 – Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of Biomass Power Association, issued the following statement today in response to the carbon standards announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy this morning:

“Biomass Power Association commends the Obama Administration for its strong commitment to reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, specifically citing biomass as a carbon emission reduction strategy. The execution of the Administration’s rules released this morning will make renewable energy sources, including biomass, an even more significant part of our nation’s energy mix.

“The rules issued today echo the findings of the National Climate Assessment (NCA) released by the White House last month in recognizing the climate benefits offered by biomass when compared to conventional fossil fuels. This is the first step toward realizing the full potential for bioenergy in addressing climate change. The NCA estimated energy from biogenic sources could displace up to 30% of the nation’s current U.S. petroleum consumption, while improving forest health.

“Biomass power is electricity generated from organic materials like forest trimmings that have no other use. Without biomass, biomass fuel would end up open burned or dumped in a landfill, where it would take up valuable space. As a reliable baseload power source that generates electricity around the clock, biomass is practical and adaptable – an excellent alternative or accompaniment to fossil fuels. Support for biomass is also support for rural economies; many of the jobs generated by biomass facilities are in the heavily forested, sparsely populated areas that need jobs the most.

“This is an exciting time for renewable energy, especially the biomass industry. However, there is still some uncertainty surrounding the carbon accounting of biomass as we await the decision by EPA on how to regulate biomass under the Clean Air Act due out later this summer. This decision will have an enormous impact on the ability of biomass power to contribute to the nation’s clean air goals. Given the ambitious goals outlined this morning, Biomass Power Association hopes the nation will be able to take full advantage of the environmental and economic benefits offered by fully embracing biomass power.”

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