



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

MAR 10 2014

Mr. Jim Tozzi
Member, Board of Advisors
Center for Regulatory Effectiveness
1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Dear Mr. Tozzi:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, expressing your concerns about the EPA's proposed New Source Performance Standards for emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from new fossil fuel-fired power plants. The EPA also refers to the standards as the Carbon Pollution Standard. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

In your letter, you suggest that the EPA has failed to comply with legally binding Office and Management and Budget data quality peer review rules prior to publication of the January 8, 2014, notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Federal Register*. As explained in the proposed rulemaking, the proposed "best system of emission reduction" determination is based on sound science. Any final rule the agency issues will clearly demonstrate the agency's compliance with the Data Quality Act and will also address any comments we receive on that issue.

The EPA recognizes the importance of following all applicable laws and statutes, and assuring environmental regulations are developed to facilitate maintenance of a reliable, affordable energy portfolio and a diverse mix of fuels in providing the nation's electricity, while also ensuring the protection of the environment. Coal-fired power plants are the largest contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. The EPA's proposal would ensure that progress toward a cleaner, safer and more modern power sector continues through the deployment of the same types of modern technologies and steps that power companies are already using to build the next generation of power plants.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Kevin Culligan in the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation at (202) 564-0611 or at culligan.kevin@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Page

Director

Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards