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Weighing Costs and Benefits of Reducing Mercury Emissions

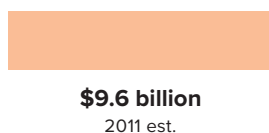
Current science says the public health benefits of removing mercury and other pollutants from coal-fired power plants far outweigh the costs to industry. The conclusion stands in stark contrast to the Trump administration's recent proposal that uses an outmoded EPA calculation of the public health benefits of cutting mercury emissions. The 2011 number appears negligible when compared with a relatively high cost to industry. The proposal also argues that factoring the co-benefits of removing other pollutants is inappropriate — and that such co-benefits should not be considered in future EPA regulations.

EPA's proposed revised Supplemental Cost Finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

In December, EPA proposed that regulating hazardous air pollutant emissions from coal- and oil-fired power plants is not appropriate and necessary under section 112 of the Clean Air Act because the costs of such a regulation outweigh the direct benefits of removing only mercury. According to the finding, the co-benefits of removing other pollutants should not be factored into cost-benefit analyses.

COSTS

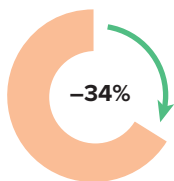
2011 EPA estimate of **annual cost to oil- and coal-fired power plant industry** to comply with MATS. Scientists now argue that costs are much lower than 2011 estimates.



Recent scientific conclusions

Mercury-related benefits of MATS are much broader than previously estimated. Mercury emissions affect childhood neurological development and are associated with adverse cardiovascular effects, endocrine disruption, diabetes risk and compromised immune function.

Mercury levels in the blood of women



1999 to (2001-2010 avg.)

Children born with prenatal exposure to methylmercury



2006 to 2016

Mercury emissions from power plants



2006 to 2016

BENEFITS FROM REDUCING MERCURY EMISSIONS

2017 Environmental Health estimate of **annual societal costs of neurocognitive deficits** associated with methylmercury exposure in the United States.



Less than \$0.01 billion

EPA's 2011 estimate of **annual health benefits** from reduced mercury emissions to children of freshwater recreational anglers.

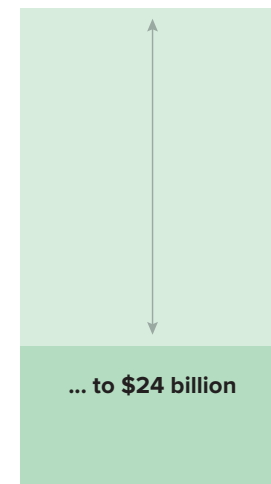


2016 National Academy of Sciences estimate of **cumulative economy-wide benefits** of MATS mercury reduction by 2050.

CO-BENEFITS OF MATS

The total monetized benefits of reducing additional pollutants far outweigh the costs of complying with MATS standards.

As much as \$80 billion ...



2011 EPA estimate of MATS' **annual co-benefits** from reduced emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and ground-level ozone.

Sources: EPA, National Academy of Sciences, Environmental Science and Technology, Environmental Health, Mercury Matters

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