Domtar appreciates the opportunity to participate in the State’s Clean Power Plan Stakeholder group, and the opportunity to provide feedback on the agencies’ questions regarding next steps.

Domtar’s feedback to questions 4-7 from the February 12th email distributed to the stakeholder group are in red text below:

4) How do we, in our respective agencies, maximize the value of the resources already invested by the Agencies and stakeholders with respect to this rule and energy and environmental policy? Continue with the work that has been started focusing on transitioning to sustainable energy and environmental policies that utilize a mix of fossil fuel and renewable energy sources with the goal to minimize increases in purchase energy costs for the Arkansas manufacturers and consumers.

5) What is our obligation under Act 382 of 2015 (Ark. Code Ann. 8-3-203(b)(2))? Is the State required to suspend activity during the stay? The State is not obligated to suspend activity during the stay unless specifically directed to do so by Arkansas law. We would hope the State takes this opportunity to utilize the extra time to thoroughly review and think through its approaches and to study the potential economic impact of its state plan.

6) How does the stay impact the obligation of the Arkansas Public Service Commission to provide a cost estimate for the Arkansas Clean Power Plan strategy? We do not feel the stay would impact any obligation the Arkansas Public Service Commission has to provide low cost energy for the manufacturers and consumers in Arkansas. Work should still continue, but at a slower pace to thoroughly review and identify compliance approaches and conduct economic assessments to determine the potential impacts to the Arkansas economy. The goal should be to find low cost compliance approaches that will be sustainable.

7) How will the stakeholder group function during the stay, and are there benefits that may be derived from discussing energy and environmental policy implicated by other EPA rules? The stakeholder group should continue to function and take this opportunity and extra time to thoroughly review and to study possible approaches and to look holistically to assess potential impacts to the Arkansas economy. This detailed review and study should also include other EPA requirements such as ozone, etc.

Sincerely,

Kelley Crouch
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