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## **Report: New Air Quality Rules will Create Jobs in Iowa**

Economic benefits, job creation and reduced pollution will be the result of two forthcoming federal air quality rules, according to a February 2011 report from Ceres, a national network of investors, environmental organizations and other public interest groups.

The report, "New Jobs-Cleaner Air: Employment Effects under Planned Changes to EPA's Air Pollution Rules," prepared by Dr. James Heintz of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, details the jobs created through investments in pollution controls, new plant construction, and the retirement of older, less efficient coal plants as the country transitions to a cleaner, modernized generation fleet under new EPA clean air standards.

### **The New Rules**

The Clean Air Transport Rule holds upwind states responsible for fine particulate matter and ozone/smog in eastern downwind states. Iowa is included in the proposed rule for its contributions to fine particulate pollution, mainly from eastern counties. It is expected to go into effect later in 2011.

The other rulemaking, dubbed the "Utility Boiler MACT" rule, addresses hazardous air pollutants from energy utility boilers. The EPA is expected to propose the rule later this year.

### **How Iowa Will Benefit**

In Iowa the new rules are expected to create approximately 20,000 new skilled and high-paying jobs in facility construction, control technology add-ons, and better waste disposal.

"The economic benefits of protecting our air quality rarely get the attention they deserve. The net gain in jobs here is nothing to shrug at, but we should also consider how much will be saved in health care costs once the rules go into effect," said Leland Searles, Air Quality Program Director for the Iowa Environmental Council.

Since the Clean Air Act was first implemented in 1970, and especially since it was amended in 1990, there has been a gain of between \$4 and \$8 in economic benefit for every \$1 spent on compliance, according to U.S. Office of Management and Budget data cited in the report.

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**About the Iowa Environmental Council**

The Iowa Environmental Council actively works in public policy to provide a safe, healthy environment for all Iowans. The Council focuses on public education and coalition building to give Iowans a voice on issues that affect their quality of life and to protect Iowa's natural resources for current and future generations. For more information contact the Iowa Environmental Council visit [www.iaenvironment.org](http://www.iaenvironment.org).