

Media Advisory

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February 1st: Important Hearing on Climate Change *Flawed DEP Rule Up for Public Hearing*

Virtual - On February 1, 2022 at 9:00 am, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will hold a virtual public hearing on its proposed [Control and Prohibition of Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rule](#), which is part of the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) rulemaking process. Registration is now open for those who want to testify; **testifiers must sign up by 5pm on January 28th**. This is supposed to be one of the biggest and most important rules for New Jersey to reach its climate change goals, but the rule doesn't go nearly far enough.

- The rule itself states that it is not meant to meet the 80% reductions by 2050 goal that is set forth in the Global Warming Response Act. In fact, it only reaches 3% of the reductions needed to reach this goal.
- It does not mention, consider or come close to meeting Governor Murphy's EO 274 making the reduction of greenhouse gases goal of 50% by 2030 (50x30) state policy
- It sets a standard that allows new gas-fired power plants to continue to be built, which could potentially increase our greenhouse gases instead of reducing them.
- The standards set by the rule would allow the majority of our existing gas-fired plants to continue to operate. This would make it even harder to reduce emissions and would undermine renewable energy.
- It exempts projects that don't sell their power to the grid, which includes backup plants like the proposed Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) plant or NJT Power Plant
- It also exempts facilities like incinerators and co-gen plants (like the Linden Generating Station) because they don't burn a majority of fossil fuels. Also exempts landfill and biogas.
- There is no Environmental Justice component in this rule proposal. It doesn't evaluate the cumulative impacts to surrounding communities or include any language to protect communities that are already overburdened with pollution.
- For more information on how this rule falls short, please view these [Empower NJ presentation slides](#).

What: NJ DEP public hearing on the proposed Control and Prohibition of CO2 Emissions Rule, which falls under the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) rulemaking process.

When: 9:00am ET Tuesday, February 1st, 2022. **Please note that those who wish to testify must register by 5pm on January 28th. Go here for email address where you sign up to speak:** <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20211206a.html>

Where: The public hearing can be viewed via this [Microsoft Teams link here](#).

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Empower NJ is a coalition of 120+ environmental, civic, faith, and progressive organizations calling on Governor Murphy to enact a prohibition on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey, and urgently implement policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by at least 45% from 2010 levels by 2030. www.empowernewjersey.com