Trump rolls back Obama-era plan regulating coal plants

LETS STATES SET EMISSION LIMITS

Latest move to undo federal rules to combat global warming

By MOIRA MACDONALD

Seattle Times Staff Reporter

The Trump administration Wednesday replaced former President Barack Obama's effort to reduce coal plant emissions with a new rule that would allow plants to stay open longer and do less progress on cutting carbon emissions. The move has been driven by the administration's desire to protect the coal industry. It is also another significant step in dismantling measures aimed at combating global warming, including the rollback of fuel-economy standards and the planned withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. The move largely goes too far to scale back emissions, or to cut it off, and significantly reduces the U.S. role in international efforts to curtail greenhouse gases.

The new rule, the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, immediately drew a flurry of unhappy letters, with energy attorneys general in Washington, California, Iowa, New York and Oregon saying they intend to sue to block it.

These cases could force further legal challenges to the Obama administration's interpretation, the agency only has authority over emissions from coal.

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By LISA FRIEDMAN

Seattle Times Staff Reporter

“WICKED” — the Broadway musical currently touring company of “Wicked,” in Seattle through July 7.

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ON THE WEB

(Witness the transformation: More photos at news.greener.com

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