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CAVANAUGH REACTS TO REPORT THAT EPA MANDATES WILL RESULT IN INCREASED BILLS FOR CONSUMERS AND HIGHER ENERGY PRODUCTION COSTS FOR PROVIDERS

Montgomery – Alabama Public Service Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh on Thursday reacted to a federal filing that revealed compliance with overly restrictive Environmental Protection Agency mandates could result in billions in additional production costs for utility providers and significantly increased charges for energy consumers.

The Southern Company this week submitted formal comments to the EPA regarding the agency's proposed Utility Maximum Achievable Controlled Technology rule, which regulates air emissions related to coal-fired power plants, and its findings demonstrate that full compliance will cost between \$13 to \$18 billion by 2020.

Cavanaugh noted that the astronomical costs required to comply with the narrow mandates could be passed on to both families and businesses in Alabama and could increase consumer costs by as much as 20 percent at a time when many individuals are already struggling during an economic downturn.

“Coming at a time when Alabama is working to create jobs and get its economy moving again, the expensive and burdensome EPA mandates are a big step in the wrong direction,” Cavanaugh said. “It is almost as if Washington is putting up deliberate roadblocks to stop our economic recovery. Families need Congress and the D.C. bureaucrats to focus on ways to put more money into their wallets, not unnecessary ways to take it out.”

The federal filing further stated that the reliability of energy providers, including Alabama Power, could be negatively affected by the EPA demands.

“Alabama’s low energy costs and good reliability have played a big factor in the jobs, industries and opportunities we have been able to recruit over the past several years, and I fear that President Obama’s EPA mandates will reverse all of the economic progress we have made,” Cavanaugh said. “The last time I was in Washington, I spoke directly to EPA officials about my concerns over their nonsensical policies, and until they find a proper balance between protecting the environment and encouraging economic development, I will continue to speak out on behalf of the Alabama rate-payer I am sworn to serve.”

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