

### Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) issued March 10, 2005

- Applies to power plants > 25 MW
- Intended to coordinate or supersede other programs:
  - $NO_x$  SIP Call
  - Acid Rain (SO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Visibility/Regional Haze (NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Overturned and remanded by Court on July 11, 2008

### Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) issued August 8, 2011

- Replaced CAIR effective January 1, 2012
- Vacated and remanded by Court on August 21, 2012
  - Homer City Generation v. EPA
- CAIR remains in effect





# Reason #1 for Vacatur

**1.** Rule could require states to do <u>more</u> than necessary for downwind nonattainment areas to reach attainment

- Focus on "good neighbor" provision:
  - SIPs must prohibit emissions which will "contribute significantly" to nonattainment in another state
- EPA used 2-step process to determine a state's "good neighbor" obligation:
  - A state is a "significant contributor" if it contributes > 1% of NAAQS
  - Using air modeling, EPA set an emission budget for each state based on:
    - Annual NOx: \$500/ton
    - Seasonal NOx: \$500/ton
    - Annual SO<sub>2</sub>: \$2,300/ton (Group 1) \$500/ton (Group 2)
- Court said EPA should have used the 1% threshold to set a floor for budgets
  - Cost-based emission budgets could require a state to go "beyond" the floor
  - EPA should treat each state individually; "grouping" will lead to "over-control"
- Dissent said the "2-step" process was never challenged during the rulemaking

## Reason #2 for Vacatur

### 2. FIP issued before states had an opportunity to submit SIPs

- FIP converts budget for each state into allowances which are allocated among power plants in the state
- Dissent: That's okay
  - CSAPR addresses NAAQS revisions made in 1997 and 2006
  - States should have already submitted SIPs with "good neighbor" provisions
  - Before issuing FIP, EPA issued a finding that the states had failed to meet their "good neighbor" obligations
- Majority Opinion: States could not submit "good neighbor" provisions until EPA defined their obligations
  - For other rules (NOx SIP Call, CAIR) EPA defined good neighbor obligation first, then gave the states at least 12 months to submit SIPs
  - States are not expected to take a "stab in the dark"
- Dissent also mentions how litigation has served to delay the rulemaking and argues for allowing some exercise of discretion by EPA