My name is Marshall Allen Johnson. I am a member of the To Nizhoni Ani grassroots organization, based on Black Mesa in northeast Arizona on the Navajo (Dine) Reservation.

I believe the EPA should be able to protect public health and safety, and this rule is a good start. However, I believe this rule does not go far enough. As EPA has said, the emissions from coal-fired power plants are harming human health.

This is something the Navajo Nation knows far too well. The emissions from Navajo Generating Station and five other coal-fired power plants in the region are harming tribal health. A host of respiratory illnesses plague those living on the Black Mesa from bronchitis to black lung disease.

But it is not just the coal-polluted air we breathe that is making us sick. Many people know that Peabody Coal mines coal on the Black Mesa. But Peabody Coal is mining water, too, to supply its power plant and mining activities. The Navajo Sandstone aquifer which underlies the Black Mesa is the sole source of drinking water for Black Mesa and the western Navajo Nation. Not only is our water depleted and desecrated, our water, air and land are contaminated by all phases of coal use, from mining to so-called disposal of coal ash. All this to supply so-called low-cost energy and for the state of Arizona.

For this rule to be effective, EPA should looks at all stages and impacts of the use of coal, other fossil fuels and nuclear power, for this all rolls into what comes out of the smokestacks, flows
In June of 2012, a founding member of To Nizhoni Ani, Nicole Horseherder, testified before a committee of the United States House of Representatives.

She said: “The Navajo Nation is the size of Scotland. It is blessed with an abundance of resources that could provide the foundation necessary for a transition to renewable energy development. The Navajo Nation encompasses regions with ample wind, solar, and geothermal resources, along with vast expanses of land, including large reclaimed coal-mining tracts that are ideal for locating renewable energy facilities. The region’s solar potential is some of the best in the world and certain portions of reservation lands have wind resource ratings capable of supporting utility-scale projects.”

My organization, To Nizhoni Ani, insists on a transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy production, for health of the land, the air, the water and future generations.

To reverse global warming, protect people’s health and protect the planet, the EPA must do everything possible to advance truly cleaner renewable energies.
Arizona is having trouble on how one to execute criminals and convicts. But their corporations and tribal administration and Barack Obama are lining up my nation on people. Dine by Az laws in a firing squad, gas chamber, extermination type execution in exemption of indigenous EPA ruling on our tribal home land, and we are the innocent party.