My name is Katherine Mitchell; I am from Atlanta, Ga. It is imperative that we combat climate change, which is a reality, and control emissions from current power plants. The EPA needs much more stringent regulations. We must reduce emissions from electrical power, which comprise nearly 40% of the country’s emissions.

If we do not combat global warming, it will have cataclysmic effects. It will ricochet through the economy, for the long term as well as short term; it will effect our health and well-being, our air quality, our food supply, our way of life. The battle against climate change is a battle we can win, but not if we continue to delay. We need clean, renewable sources of energy. The technologies exist; they must be implemented.

I respectfully request that the EPA make four major changes to the proposed rule.

First, there should be more stringent emission reductions, particularly from coal-fired plants.

Second, in addition to being more strict, the implementation of these regulations should be sooner. Time is of the essence in this struggle.

Third, it is a mistake to encourage the use of natural gas as more than a transitional fuel as we convert to clean sustainable energy sources. Natural gas is not a clean fuel; it does release methane into the environment. Our time and effort should go into the development of sustainable, non-fossil sources like solar.

Fourth, I request that the EPA encourage all states heavily reliant on coal (such as Georgia) to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind. I am aware that Nuclear energy also brings with it significant problems. Not least is that there is no known way to safely dispose of spent fuel rods. These highly radioactive rods will present major problems for future generations. I would also prefer that we move away from the mining of uranium.
In the past, the world has often looked to the USA for leadership. We have a chance to be leaders in the move to clean, sustainable energy. There is no downside to our making these changes. Our future hangs in the balance.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Katherine Mitchell