

IN EPA REBUKE, JUDGE ORDERS QUICK EVALUATION ON COAL JOBS

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WHEELING-- A judge has ordered federal regulators to quickly evaluate how many power plant and coal mining jobs are lost because of air pollution regulations.

U.S. District Judge John Preston Bailey in Wheeling made the ruling after reviewing a response from outgoing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator Gina McCarthy.

She responded to the judge's previous order in a lawsuit brought against her by Murray Energy Corp. that the EPA must start doing an analysis that it hadn't done in decades.

According to Wednesday's order, McCarthy asserted it would take the EPA up to two years to come up with a methodology to use to try to comply with the earlier ruling.

Bailey called the response "unacceptable" and told the EPA to identify facilities harmed by the regulations by July 1.