

Supreme Court will not reverse mercury emissions ruling

Feb. 24 -- The U.S. Supreme Court has effectively shot down the Bush administration's controversial effort to regulate mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The Supreme Court announced Feb. 23 that it would not consider reversing a lower court ruling that had tossed out the law after finding it violated the Clean Air Act.

The Bush administration in 2005 adopted the Clean Air Mercury Rule, a cap-and-trade program for mercury emissions. Proponents said the rule would reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 70 percent.

However, 14 states and environmental and public health groups said the full reductions wouldn't be seen until after 2020. They called for the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt a maximum achievable control technology, or MACT, standard, which would require each plant to reduce mercury emissions by the maximum amount possible.

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