

# UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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1300 L STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 1200  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
202-899-2851  
202-899-2852 FAX  
[www.uwua.net](http://www.uwua.net)



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President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Trump,

The hard-working men and woman who work in our nation's power plants need your help – and they need your help now. Last month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rejected a proposed rule by the Department of Energy (DOE) that would have corrected competitive electricity markets to appropriately value attributes uniquely provided by fuel-secure baseload generators - predominantly critical coal and nuclear power plants. FERC's failure to timely address the pressing need to fix America's electricity markets will have devastating consequences for our economy, our power grid, and our national security.

Most alarmingly, power plant closures will be immediate and irreversible. Largely because of punitive regulatory pressures against coal and nuclear power, approximately 60,000 megawatts of fuel-secure baseload power plants have closed over the last several years and many more are slated for premature closure in the near future. Unfortunately, the improved regulatory environment will not stop those closures from happening. Electricity market rules simply do not value the reliability and resiliency attributes that fuel-secure baseload generators provide the grid.

The imminent closure of these plants will have far-reaching effects. First and foremost, the nation's power grid needs fuel-secure baseload power. Coal and nuclear fuel are abundant, reliable, affordable and not vulnerable and unpredictable conditions or emergencies that can disrupt the delivery of other fuels. Coal-fired power plants can stockpile several weeks' or months' worth of fuel on site; nuclear generators store enough fuel to last months or even years.

In the case of an extreme weather emergency, a coordinated attack or any significant disruptions to the fuel delivery infrastructure, fuel-secure baseload generators are the only ones capable of continuing operations. If fuel-secure baseload plants continue to be forced to retire, our power grid is likely to become overloaded or fail in the event of a sudden, extreme increase in demand.

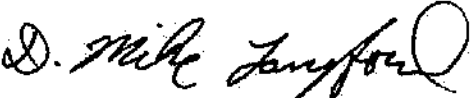
This is not merely a hypothetical situation: the 2014 polar vortex stretched the country's natural gas pipeline system well past its capabilities, resulting in skyrocketing prices and fuel shortages. These shortages during extreme cold temperatures could have been deadly, if not for fuel-secure baseload power plants that essentially carried the grid through the extended emergency. Many of the generators that were running full- out have since retired.

Experts agree. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which is responsible for establishing reliability standards for our grid, described the tenuous situation well in comments it provided to Secretary Perry's proposal. NERC said "Coal and nuclear generation generally have the unique attributes of low outage rates, high availability rates, and, with on-site storage, low fuel supply sensitivity necessary to provide secure and stable capacity to the grid. While their current benefits and potential are significant, non-synchronous

generation and natural gas-fired facilities do not currently replace the secure capacity provided by coal and nuclear generation.”

FERC’s failure to approve the DOE proposal to properly value the reliability and resiliency attributes uniquely provided by fuel-secure baseload generators could soon prove to be a catastrophic mistake. We do not have the luxury of kicking the can any farther down the road. Without immediate action to stop the imminent closure of fuel-secure baseload generators, our country will find itself confronted with a crisis that could have been prevented. This is not a question of if, but when.

I urge the White House to direct DOE Secretary Rick Perry to use the emergency powers under his authority to stop the coming closures of additional coal and nuclear plants across the country. This is the only way to prevent the impending disaster. The country cannot afford further delays. DOE must act right away.



Sincerely,  
D. Michael Langford  
National President  
Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

CC: Hon. Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy