



Biodiversity group moves to sue EPA for soot pollution regulation

Laura Barron-Lopez, E&E reporter
Thursday, August 29, 2013

The Center for Biological Diversity is not happy about what it characterizes as U.S. EPA's continued negligence over the Clean Air Act, and has decided to take matters into its own hands.

The center yesterday filed a notice of intent to sue EPA for failing to crack down on soot pollution in nine states.

The notice forces EPA to take action, said Jonathan Evans, toxics and endangered species campaign director at the center.

"Unfortunately, we often have to go to court to get the EPA to meet the standards," Evans said. "This triggers a two-year time frame in which the EPA develops its own federal implementation plan."

It also gives the states time to set up their own blueprints.

"Till now, the EPA has been in the nether-worlds, but the Clean Air Act has a mechanism to force the feds and states to protect humans against air pollution," Evans said.

The states in question are Alaska, Arizona, California, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Specific metropolitan areas like Ann Arbor, Mich., and the South Coast Air Basin in California are densely polluted with severe soot and particulate matter, Evans said.

Soot, capable of burying itself deep in the lungs and acidifying water bodies, is known to cause a range of health problems for people and wildlife.

"I think the science is clear: Soot poisons our skies, our bodies and ecosystems, and the EPA needs to take steps now," Evans said.

