

# An open letter to OG&E customers:



**OGE Energy Corp.**

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At OG&E, we know our customers expect reliable, reasonably priced electricity produced in an environmentally responsible way. We work hard to meet those expectations. Today, our rates are well below the national average, and we strive always to meet environmental laws, rules and regulations.

Unfortunately, an action by the Environmental Protection Agency is putting Oklahoma's low electric rates at risk. The agency is proposing an unnecessary mandate that could result in the largest rate increase in OG&E's 109-year history.

The mandate is the Regional Haze rule. It calls for restoring pristine visibility at our national parks and wilderness areas over the next 50 years. It's a very desirable goal, but one the EPA wants to enforce in a way that will cause a dramatic and almost immediate increase in electricity prices for our customers.

It doesn't have to be that way!

The state of Oklahoma conducted a thorough analysis using the EPA's own guidelines and determined that, with minor modifications, the state's utilities would be in compliance. The state even took the additional step of submitting a back-up approach that would grant utilities the flexibility to comply with the rule using alternative approaches over the next 10 to 15 years. This back-up plan would result in less immediate financial hardship on customers.

Rather than adopt Oklahoma's common sense plan, the EPA is proposing to reject and replace it with its own federal plan requiring a rapid, three- to five-year installation of emission controls costing as much as \$1.5 billion or an immediate switch to natural gas, which could be even more costly. Either option, in such a short timeframe, would abruptly drive up electricity bills, harming customers and the state's economy.

To make matters worse, the EPA is proposing other rules that could require utilities to take different, even conflicting, actions regarding emissions. As you would expect, this too could result in even higher costs for customers.

We believe that Oklahoma's original proposal is correct. One answer for OG&E would be to simply agree to the EPA's terms and pass along the cost increases – but it's not the right answer. We support the state's position and believe the EPA does not have the right to substitute its views for the state's.

We plan to join others in voicing these concerns at an EPA public comment hearing in Oklahoma City and Tulsa this week. We think Oklahomans know what's best for Oklahoma and will urge the EPA to adopt the state plan.

Will you join us?

To learn more about how to make public comment, visit [www.oge.com](http://www.oge.com).



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