

## **Obama acts to reverse Bush climate moves**

U.S. President Barack Obama will start today reversing former President's climate change policies with steps to raise fuel efficiency standards and grant states authority to limit greenhouse gas emissions from cars, reports Reuters.

An administration official said late on Sunday that Obama, who took office last week, would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider a request by California to impose its own strict limits on automobile carbon dioxide emissions.

The request was denied under the Bush administration, prompting California and several other states to sue. The official said a final decision by the EPA would likely take several months.

If the EPA reverses the previous ruling, more than 12 U.S. states could proceed with plans to impose strict carbon dioxide limits.

California wants to reduce the emissions by 30 percent by 2016 -- the most ambitious federal or state effort to address global warming.

President is scheduled to deliver remarks on jobs, energy independence and climate change in the East Room of the White House today.

The White House official said Obama would also direct the Department of Transportation to move forward with setting 2011 vehicle fuel efficiency standards by March.

"These actions are a clear demonstration that President Obama recognizes the urgency of moving America to clean energy and tackling the climate crisis in 2009," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

**Source: Reuters**