

US EPA issues proposed endangerment finding

After a thorough scientific review ordered in 2007 by the US Supreme Court, the US Environmental Protection Agency has issued a proposed finding that greenhouse gases contribute to air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare. The proposed finding identifies six greenhouse gases that pose a potential threat. "This finding confirms that greenhouse gas pollution is a serious problem now and for future generations. Fortunately, it follows President [Barack] Obama's call for a low carbon economy and strong leadership in Congress on clean energy and climate legislation," says EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. "This pollution problem has a solution – one that will create millions of green jobs and end our country's dependence on foreign oil." The proposed endangerment finding states that, "in both magnitude and probability, climate change is an enormous problem. The greenhouse gases that are responsible for it endanger public health and welfare within the meaning of the Clean Air Act". In addition to threatening human health, the analysis finds that climate change also has serious national security implications. The proposed endangerment finding now enters the public comment period, which is the next step in the deliberative process EPA must undertake before issuing final findings.

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