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For Immediate Release

EPA Receives overwhelming community response over Clean Power Plan

On December 1st, at the close of the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Public commenting period for their Clean Power Plan, over 2000 members from WE ACT for Environmental Justice, students, environmental advocates and concerned citizens signed off on a letter expressing concerns over the plans lack of attention on how their changes may affect the quality of life and environment of at risk communities.

Across the country, low income, indigenous people, and communities of color suffer disproportionately from breathing in toxic air, as well as dealing with the ramifications of climate change. However, there is not adequate attention paid to vulnerable communities in the new clean power plan. Members are demanding the EPA to include language in the final rule and subsequent guidance that recognizes and considers potential impacts on at risk environmental justice communities (ej), and explicitly directs states to identify ej communities and where there are potential disparate impacts, and take steps to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

These priorities were developed collectively by WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, and members of the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change (www.ejleadershipforum.org) in support of the Clean Power, Clean Air, Clean Communities campaign (www.weact.org/ejcleanair).

West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT for Environmental Justice) is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.