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(Wyo.)-Consumer Advocate Group Opposes EPA Pollution Plan

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 08/28/2013 09:35 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - A state consumer advocacy group says a federal plan to reduce regional haze will mean higher utility bills for Wyoming residents.

The Environmental Protection Agency plan seeks to reduce haze in national parks and wilderness areas by further limiting air pollution from coal-fired power plants in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate announced Tuesday it filed comments objecting to a federal proposal.

Office administrator Bryce Freeman says the plan will hurt ratepayers while accomplishing few of its environmental goals.

He said the federal plan would cost Wyoming utilities \$180 million in capital costs and \$60 million in annual operating costs to retrofit their plants.

Freeman tells the Wyoming Tribune Eagle that much of those costs would be passed on to ratepayers.