

The Evolution of a Bad Idea

Keeping Tabs on the Trump Administration's \$34 Billion Bailout

The Trump administration's proposed bailout for coal and nuclear plants has faced a bumpy road since its inception.

5/5/16

Campaign Promises from the Start

Candidate Trump "digs coal" at Charleston, WV rally amidst promises to revive coal industry.



1/8/18

Independent Regulators Say No

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulators reject Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Rick Perry's plan to subsidize coal and nuclear plants.

THE HILL

Regulators Kill Perry's Proposal to Prop Up Coal, Nuclear Power Plants.

1/8/18

5/31/18

Memo Leaked With New Strategy

Leaked DOE bailout memo asserts dubious cyberattack resiliency advantage for coal and nuclear plants.

BLOOMBERG

Trump Prepares Lifeline for Money-Losing Coal Plants.

5/31/18

6/28/18

Key Regulator Resigns

FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson announces his resignation, opening a position for a Trump nominee.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Republican FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson to Resign Amid Fight Over Coal Bailout.

6/28/18

7/19/18

Costs Become Clear

The Brattle Group's economists estimate that the proposed bailout could cost taxpayers \$34 billion over two years.



7/31/18

DHS Sets the Record Straight

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen asserts that cyberattacks threaten nationwide energy systems - not specifically targeted industries.

10/3/18

A Controversial Appointment

President Trump nominates Bernard McNamee for a FERC commissionership. McNamee was one of the key architects of the bailout plan at the DOE.



11/1/18

Report Confirms Bailout Unnecessary

A study from Mid-Atlantic grid operator PJM found that grid resiliency would "remain reliable" under high consumer demand, severe weather, and generation retirements - largely disproving DOE fearmongering.

10/15/18

Advisors Say Pump the Brakes

Advisors from the National Security Council and National Economic Council recommend the White House shelve bailout plan as opposition mounts.



11/15/18

Presidential Appointee Hedges

Asked by several senators to recuse himself from the bailout debate, McNamee assured the members that, if confirmed, he would not automatically rubber stamp any plan.



Trump's coal and nuclear bailout is nothing more than a political favor wrapped in the flag of national security with taxpayers footing the \$34 billion bill.

Let's Stop the Taxpayer Bailout.



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