MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ray Niemiec
646-839-3335
rniemiec@manhattan-institute.org

NOT BEYOND COAL

How The Global Thirst For Low-Cost Electricity Continues Driving Coal Demand

NEW YORK, NY: Robert Bryce (@pwrhungry) has authored a new Manhattan Institute report which focuses on the ongoing boom in global coal consumption and energy poverty in developing countries. Bryce convincingly argues that it makes little sense for the U.S.—which has the world's largest coal resources—to restrict the use of coal within its borders.

Indeed, the nine countries highlighted in his paper—**China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, and South Korea**—are planning to build some 550 gigawatts of *new* coal-fired capacity over the next two and a half decades. Moreover, growth in coal consumption, Bryce explains, has been critical in providing electricity access and fostering economic growth in some of the world's poorest places.

In addition, Bryce finds that:

- Between 1990 and 2010, about **830 million people—the vast majority in developing countries—gained access to electricity due to coal-fired generation**. In that same period, only 65 million people gained access through non-hydro renewables.
- In 1994, **China** consumed about the same amount of electricity as **Japan** and had a GDP one-eighth the size of Japan's; in 2013, after tripling its coal consumption, China produced five times as much electricity as Japan and had a GDP twice the size of Japan's.
- **Texas** has about one-seventh of **Pakistan's** population, but over four times more electricity-generation capacity.
- To minimize the possibility of **Russian** "blackmail", **Poland** will spend $3.8 billion to add 1.8 gigawatts of new coal-fired capacity by 2019.

Bryce demonstrates that, no viable substitutes exist that can match the low cost and massive scale of electricity production now provided by coal-fired generators. Coal, in short, continues to play a pivotal role providing electricity to poor and wealthy countries alike.

Confronted with such realities, U.S. policymakers should scrap the EPA's Clean Power Plan and, instead, promote deployment of advanced generation technologies in new power plants. Doing so, argues Bryce, will boost efficiency, wringing more electricity out of the fuel, while reducing the amount of carbon dioxide produced per kilowatt-hour of output.

Charts & Graphs:

- Estimates of Global Population That Gained Access to Electricity by Generation Type, 1990-2010
- Improving Coal Combustion reduces Emissions and Increases Efficiency
- Change in Consumption of Coal Versus Other Fuels, 2003-2013
- Predicted Growth in Global Electricity Generation by Source

For more detailed findings, click here for the full report.

To schedule an interview with the author, please contact Ray Niemiec at (646) 839-3335.