

Supreme Court puts Obama's Clean Power Plan on hold

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to halt enforcement of President Barack Obama's sweeping plan to address climate change until after legal challenges are resolved.

The surprising move is a blow to the administration and a victory for the coalition of 27 mostly Republican-led states and industry opponents that call the regulations "an unprecedented power grab."

By issuing the temporary freeze, a 5-4 majority of the justices signaled that opponents made strong arguments against the rules. The high court's four liberal justices — Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — said Tuesday they would have denied the request for delay.

The Obama administration's plan aims to stave off the worst predicted impacts of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions at existing power plants by about one-third by 2030.

A federal appeals court in

Washington last month refused to put the plan on hold. That lower court is not likely to issue a ruling on the legality of the plan until months after it hears oral arguments begin on June 2.

Obama seeks cybersecurity boost to replace 'ancient' tech

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Tuesday he is asking Congress for \$3.1 billion to update the government's archaic computer systems to protect them from cyberattacks as part of a new,

centralized effort to boost cybersecurity.

Obama said he will hire a new chief information security officer — but whose salary would be paltry compared to those paid by big businesses — and expand the government's troubled "Einstein" intrusion-prevention technology. Obama said some infrastructure is downright ancient, with the Social Security Administration relying on systems from the 1960s that are vulnerable.

"That's going to have to change," Obama said, flanked by top national security advisers in the Roosevelt Room. "We're going to have to play some

catch-up."

Across town, the U.S. director of national intelligence, James Clapper, warned Congress that Russia, China, Iran and North Korea are the most serious threats to U.S. information systems. Clapper also said increasingly connected devices and appliances make the U.S. vulnerable in new ways.

Obama's comments came after the release of his 2017 budget proposal. Obama is asking Congress for \$19 billion more in cybersecurity funding across all government agencies — an increase of more than from 35 percent from last year.



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