



# Monthly Energy Update

## EPA Finalizes CO2 Limits for Power Plants

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## PacifiCorp Now Faces \$30B Fire Claim Demand in Oregon

In a complaint filed in Oregon on Monday, PacifiCorp now faces a demand for \$30 billion from victims of Oregon’s 2020 Labor Day wildfires, an escalation of a legal onslaught on the largest grid operator in the Western U.S.

While the amount sought in an amended complaint is about two and a half times what the utility is actually worth, it’s also much bigger than the payout PacifiCorp might be expected to face based on claims resolved so far.

The growing liabilities for PacifiCorp prompted Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffet to warn in his annual letter to investors that wildfires have turned utilities across the western U.S. into risky investments. Utilities in California, Colorado, Hawaii, and Texas have also faced billions in fire liabilities.

A jury already found PacifiCorp liable in 2023 for its role in the fires, but victims must undergo separate trials to determine individual damages. The new filing in state court in Portland formally adds the names of 1,000 residents who are covered by a class action case over the destruction of about 2,500 properties in Oregon.

Jurors have so far awarded 36 plaintiffs a total of about \$220 million – an average of \$6 million per person. The new claim is much higher at \$30 million per person that victim lawyers are seeking in Monday’s filing, which asks for up to \$5 million to compensate for actual losses and as much as \$25 million for psychological trauma.

