

## **8 US States Sue 5 Utilities Over Greenhouse Gas Pollution**

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NEW YORK -- Eight states and New York City brought a lawsuit Wednesday against five utilities, alleging that they contribute to global warming by releasing millions of tons of carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere each year.

The lawsuit, filed in a Manhattan federal court, seeks to require American Electric Power Inc. (AEP), The Southern Co. (SO), the Tennessee Valley Authority, Xcel Energy Inc. (XEL) and Cinergy Corp. (CIN) to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide gas, which scientists believe is the main cause of global warming.

The lawsuit doesn't seek monetary damages from the companies.

The lawsuit relies on a provision of federal common law known as the public nuisance legal doctrine, which communities have used to force companies to reduce their pollution, even if they're not violating Environmental Protection Association standards.

"The defendants are the largest carbon dioxide polluters in the U.S. and are among the largest in the world," said New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. "The law is well accepted and unambiguous that those who contribute to a widespread harm to the public must be ordered to clean up their pollution."

The states involved in the suit are California, Connecticut, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.