



INTERVENTION 2

Coal-fired Power Plants and Large Industry Moved Outside City

SUMMARY

The studies identified cases where polluting coal-fired power plants in urban centers are closed down, and newer coal plants opened in rural areas, where emissions are either better controlled, or not in pathway to high density urban areas.

Health benefits: Medium, as PM2.5 is reduced in city and emission is now in less populated areas. However, a significant rural population may now be exposed, especially if controls in rural areas are not as stringent.

Carbon benefits: No change. Zero benefits.

Costs: Moving industry, in particular can have high costs, in terms of disruption and building new facilities. Typically governments have paid towards these costs.

Feasibility: Opposition by industry to disruption and costs; workers may not wish to move. Local issues—NIMBY.

Key players: Usually led by national governments but needs active cooperation of power sector and/or industry groups.

EXAMPLE

INDIA. In Delhi, about 8% of the ambient particulate pollution was due to power plants near the city. The Badarpur

coal-fired power plant in Delhi, with an installed capacity of 700MW, contributed only 8% of Delhi's electric power but produced 80% of the city's particulate matter from the energy sector and an estimated 11% of the ultrafine particulate matter (PM2.5). The plant was reportedly closed permanently in late 2018. The shortfall is to be made up by imported power from larger and more efficient plants outside the city.