

The Pueblo Chieftain

Agreement shuts down coal-fired plant

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DENVER — An agreement reached between WildEarth Guardians and the Arkansas River Power Authority Tuesday will close the utility's coal-fired power plant in Lamar and send \$125,000 to clean energy projects in Southeastern Colorado.

The settlement resolves two enforcement lawsuits filed in federal court by WildEarth Guardians against the Arkansas River Power Authority for allegedly violating the Clean Air Act at their coal-fired power plant in Lamar. The 43-megawatt plant was constructed in 2009 after the Authority converted its natural gas-fired power plant to coal.

The plant is now offline.

The consent decree was filed Tuesday in federal court, but will not be signed by a judge until mid-August. Under the Clean Air Act, settlements of citizen enforcement suits must be subject to U.S. Department of Justice review for 45 days. Once signed, the agreement will become enforceable and binding.