**Region 5 Clean Water Enforcement Report**

**Social Media Toolkit**

**#Region5Report #MidwestWatchdog**

**Background**

A new report by the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) found the U.S. EPA has backed off its enforcement responsibilities under the Clean Water Act in the Great Lakes region. In a multi-year analysis, ELPC found shrinking enforcement budgets, declining staff levels, and drops in enforcement with a corresponding rise in industrial polluters’ noncompliance with the Clean Water Act requirements.

ELPC reviewed and analyzed publicly available national EPA data, as well as enforcement data for EPA’s Region 5 office, which oversees six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The report’s findings are being released just as U.S. EPA announced a nationwide relaxation of environmental enforcement covering industries and public facilities across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite decades of bipartisan agreement on the value of environmental regulation, this administration has shown disregard for the basic responsibilities of environmental protection.

Download the full report here: <http://elpc.org/Region5>

**TWEETS**

New #MidwestWatchdog report shows @EPA under @realDonaldTrump stepping back from environmental law enforcement, leaving the #GreatLakes at risk. Download @ELPCenter #Region5Report to learn more. <http://elpc.org/Region5>

The @EPA under @EPAAWheeler is asleep at the wheel, putting the #GreatLakes at risk. 28% decline in environmental law enforcement in the #Midwest under his watch. #EPADoYourJob #EmpoweringPollutersAgency @ELPCenter #Region5Report <http://elpc.org/Region5>

#Midwest facilities will pollute if they can get away with it as @EPA steps back from enforcement. 62% more facilities in “significant noncompliance” with Clean Water Act in Region 5. #ProtectTheGreatLakes @ELPCenter #Region5Report #MidwestWatchdog <http://elpc.org/Region5>

**Tweet Thread:**

New @ELPCenter #Region5Report empirical data shows declining Clean Water Act enforcement in the Midwest, putting the #GreatLakes at risk. #EPADoYourJob #EmpoweringPollutersAgency <https://twitter.com/jt_hammons/status/1252272887765090306>

Multi-year trends show @EPA stepping back from its responsibility to protect the #GreatLakes under the Clean Water Act. Download @ELPCenter #Region5Report to learn more.

<https://twitter.com/ELPCenter/status/1252275508655652864>

**Quotes:**

“Public health, clean drinking water, and the #GreatLakes are all in jeopardy when @EPA steps back from its monitoring and enforcement duties.” @HowardELPC @ELPCenter #MidwestWatchdog #Region5Report <http://elpc.org/Region5>

Data shows declining enforcement under @EPAAWheeler @EPA “With diminishing funds and declining staff, Region 5 personnel are enforcing the #CleanWaterACt with one arm tied behind their back.” @jt\_hammons @ELPCenter #MidwestWatchdog #Region5Report <http://elpc.org/Region5>

"Minor slap on the wrist is little deterrence for other facilities that might violate the #CleanWaterAct in the future. Civil penalties or compliance costs should be higher than the basic cost of doing business.” @kiana\_courtney @ELPCenter #Region5Report http://elpc.org/Region5

**FACEBOOK**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stepped back from its responsibility to protect the Great Lakes under the Clean Water Act.

The Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) reviewed and analyzed publicly available enforcement data for EPA’s Region 5 office, which covers six Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. ELPC found shrinking funds, plummeting staff levels, declining enforcement metrics, and a corresponding rise in significant noncompliance with the Clean Water Act.

Read the full report at <http://elpc.org/Region5>

The Environmental Law & Policy Center’s latest report reveals declining environmental enforcement in the Midwest, putting the Great Lakes at risk.

ELPC found shrinking funds, plummeting staff levels, declining enforcement metrics, and a corresponding rise in significant noncompliance with the Clean Water Act in Region 5.

Despite decades of bipartisan agreement on the value of environmental regulation, this administration has shown disregard for the basic responsibilities of environmental protection.

Read the full report at <http://elpc.org/Region5>