# List of EPA Rollbacks Under Scott Pruitt

*UPDATED: January 28, 2018*

## 2017

**February: Executive Order Required Creation Of Task Force To Evaluate Regulations**. According to the EPA, “Executive Order 13777 (82 FR 12285, March 1, 2017) on Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda directs federal agencies to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force (Task Force). One of the duties of the Task Force is to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations to the agency head regarding their repeal, replacement, or modification. The EO requires EPA to submit a progress report to the Administrator by mid-May, 2017.” [EPA, Regulatory Reform, accessed [5/30/17](https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulatory-reform)]

**February: Executive Order Required Two Existing Regulations For Each New Regulation**. According to the EPA, “Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017) on Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs directs all agencies to repeal two existing regulations for each new regulation issued in FY 2017 and thereafter. It further directs agencies that the “total incremental costs of all regulations should be no greater than zero” in FY 2017. For FY 2018 and beyond, the director of the Office of Management and Budget will provide agencies with a total amount of incremental costs that will be allowed.” [EPA, Regulatory Reform, accessed [5/30/17](https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulatory-reform)]

**February: White House Ordered EPA Review Of WOTUS Rule**. According to the White House, “By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows: Section 1. Policy. It is in the national interest to ensure that the Nation’s navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of the Congress and the States under the Constitution. Sec. 2. Review of the Waters of the United States Rule.” [White House, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/28/presidential-executive-order-restoring-rule-law-federalism-and-economic)]

**February: Revoked Rule To Prevent Coal Mining Companies From Dumping Debris Into Local Streams**. According to the New York Times, “Revoked a rule that prevented coal mining companies from dumping debris into local streams. Feb. 16 Who wanted it changed? The coal industry said the rule was overly burdensome, calling it part of the war on coal. Congress passed a bill revoking the rule, which Mr. Trump signed into law.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**March: Pruitt Denied Petition To Ban Widely Used Pesticide**. According to the EPA, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt signed an order denying a petition that sought to ban chlorpyrifos, a pesticide crucial to U.S. agriculture. ‘We need to provide regulatory certainty to the thousands of American farms that rely on chlorpyrifos, while still protecting human health and the environment,’ said EPA Administrator Pruitt. ‘By reversing the previous Administration’s steps to ban one of the most widely used pesticides in the world, we are returning to using sound science in decision-making – rather than predetermined results.’” [EPA, [3/29/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-denies-petition-ban-widely-used-pesticide-0)]

**March: Trump Approved Keystone Pipeline**. According to the Washington Post, “President Trump announced Friday morning the granting of a permit for construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, calling it ‘the first of many infrastructure projects’ that he would approve in order to put more Americans to work. Trump said that ‘government too often failed its citizens and companies over the past long period of time. Today we begin to make things right.’ The $8 billion project would span 1,200 miles, connecting Alberta’s massive tar sands crude with pipelines and refineries on the Texas gulf coast that are particularly well-suited to handling the thick oil.” [Washington Post, [3/24/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/24/trump-administration-grants-approval-for-keystone-xl-pipeline/?utm_term=.b9ca064fdc00)]

**March: EPA And DOT Announced Plan To Roll Back Fuel Efficiency Standards**. According to the New York Times, “The Trump administration is expected to begin rolling back stringent federal regulations on vehicle pollution that contributes to global warming, according to people familiar with the matter, essentially marking a U-turn to efforts to force the American auto industry to produce more electric cars. The announcement — which is expected as soon as Tuesday and will be made jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Scott Pruitt, and the transportation secretary, Elaine L. Chao — will immediately start to undo one of former President Barack Obama’s most significant environmental legacies.” [New York Times, [3/3/17](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/us/politics/trump-vehicle-emissions-regulation.html)]

**March: EPA Withdrew Information Request For The Oil And Gas Industry**. According to an EPA press release, “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is withdrawing its request that owners and operators in the oil and natural gas industry provide information on equipment and emissions at existing oil and gas operations. The withdrawal is effective immediately, meaning owners and operators – including those who have received an extension to their due dates for providing the information – are no longer required to respond. At this time, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt would like to assess the need for the information that the agency was collecting through these requests. This action also comes after the agency received a letter on March 1, 2017, from nine state Attorneys General and the Governors of Mississippi and Kentucky, expressing concern with the pending Information Collection Request for Oil and Gas Facilities.” [EPA, [3/2/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-withdraws-information-request-oil-and-gas-industry)]

**March: Trump Executive Order Lifted Federal Coal Lease Moratorium.** According to The Hill, “The order stops Interior’s moratorium on new coal-mining leases on federal land, something Obama instituted to study how to charge coal companies for the climate impacts of the fuel they mine on federal property.” [The Hill, [3/28/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/326124-trump-signs-order-to-roll-back-obamas-climate-moves)]

**March: EPA Planned Review of Clean Power Plan**. According to the EPA, “Today, at the Environmental Protection Agency surrounded by American energy workers, public employees and members of Congress, President Donald Trump signed the Energy Independence Executive Order to protect thousands of jobs and strengthen energy security, while also ensuring that our policies provide clean air and clean water for all of our citizens. The Energy Independence Executive Order directs agencies responsible for regulating domestic energy production to submit plans to the White House, which will identify, and propose measures to revise or rescind, regulatory barriers that impede progress towards energy independence. Moreover, the Order rescinds several Obama executive orders and policies related to climate change. It also directs the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Interior to review, and if necessary, revise or rescind, several regulations that may place unnecessary, costly burdens on coal-fired electric utilities, coal miners, and oil and gas producers.” [EA, [3/28/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-review-clean-power-plan-under-president-trumps-executive-order)]

**March: Trump EO Stopped Federal Agencies From Considering Climate Change In Environmental Reviews**. According to The Hill, “[The EO] also stops policies asking federal agencies to consider climate change in environmental reviews, a government-wide accounting method for climate change regulations called the “social cost of carbon” and Obama executive orders on climate, such as one asking that infrastructure be built to withstand a future climate affected by global warming.” [The Hill, [3/28/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/326124-trump-signs-order-to-roll-back-obamas-climate-moves)]

**March: Cancelled Methane Emission Reporting Requirement**. According to the New York Times, “Canceled a requirement for reporting methane emissions. March 2 Who wanted it changed? Republican officials from 11 states wrote a letter to Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, saying the rule added costs and paperwork for oil and gas companies. The next day, Mr. Pruitt revoked the rule.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**March: “Revoked An Update To Public Land Use Planning Process.”** According to the New York Times, “Revoked an update to public land use planning process. March 27 Who wanted it changed? Republicans and fossil fuel industry groups opposed the updated planning rule for public lands, arguing that it gave the federal government too much power at the expense of local and business interests. Congress passed a bill revoking the rule, which Mr. Trump signed into law.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**March: Reopened A Review Of Fuel-Efficiency Standards For Cars And Trucks**. According to the New York Times, “Reopened a review of fuel-efficiency standards for cars and trucks. March 15 Who wanted it changed? Automakers said it would be difficult and costly to meet fuel economy goals they had agreed upon with the Obama administration and noted rising consumer demand for sport utility vehicles and trucks. A standards review had been completed by the Obama administration before Mr. Trump took office, but the auto industry argued that it was rushed. The E.P.A. and Department of Transportation have reopened the review.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**March: Pruitt Signed Proposed Rule To Delay The Effective Date Of EPA’s Risk Management Program**. According to the EPA, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed rule this week to further delay the effective date of EPA’s Risk Management Program (RMP) Amendments to allow EPA time to complete the process for reconsidering the RMP Amendments issued on January 17, 2017. ‘We want to prevent regulation created for the sake of regulation by the previous Administration. Any expansion of the RMP program should make chemical facilities safer, without compromising our national security. And, any new RMP requirements should be developed in accordance with the explicit mandate granted to EPA by Congress,’ said Administrator Pruitt.” [EPA, [3/31/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-seeks-additional-time-review-rmp-rule)]

**March: EPA To Reexamine Emission Standards For Cars And Light Duty Trucks**. According to EPA, “Today, Department of Transportation Secretary (DOT) Elaine Chao and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt will revisit the previous administration’s rule that finalized standards to increase fuel economy to the equivalent of 54.5 mpg for cars and light-duty trucks by Model Year 2025. ‘Today’s decision by the EPA is a win for the American economy,’ said U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao. ‘The Department of Transportation will re-open the Mid-Term evaluation process and work with the EPA to complete the review in a transparent, data-driven manner.’” [EPA, [3/15/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reexamine-emission-standards-cars-and-light-duty-trucks-model-years-2022-2025)]

**April: Pruitt Called Paris Accord A Bad Deal; Pushed For United States To Pull Out**. According to Reuters, “The United States should continue to be ‘engaged’ in international climate change discussions but the Paris climate change agreement is a ‘bad deal’ for the country, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Sunday. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt did not confirm whether the United States would remain in the global climate change pact, under which nearly all countries agreed in 2015 to halt or curb their greenhouse gas emissions, even as the world’s biggest emitter China reaffirmed its commitment to the agreement.” [Reuters, 4/2/17]

**April: EPA Deleted Climate Change Website**. According to EPA, “EPA.gov, the website for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is undergoing changes that reflect the agency’s new direction under President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt. The process, which involves updating language to reflect the approach of new leadership, is intended to ensure that the public can use the website to understand the agency's current efforts. The changes will comply with agency ethics and legal guidance, including the use of proper archiving procedures. For instance, a snapshot of the last administration’s website will remain available from the main page… The first page to be updated is a page reflecting President Trump’s Executive Order on Energy Independence, which calls for a review of the so-called Clean Power Plan. Language associated with the Clean Power Plan, written by the last administration, is out of date. Similarly, content related to climate and regulation is also being reviewed.” [EPA, [4/28/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-kicks-website-updates)]

**April: EPA Announced Back To Basics Agenda.** According to EPA, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt visited the Harvey Mine in Sycamore, Pa., today, to meet with coal miners and announce EPA’s Back-to-Basics agenda. The agenda reinforces Administrator Pruitt’s commitment to refocusing EPA on its intended mission, returning power to the states, and creating an environment where jobs can grow. ‘What better way to launch EPA’s Back-to-Basics agenda than visiting the hard-working coal miners who help power America. The coal industry was nearly devastated by years of regulatory overreach, but with new direction from President Trump, we are helping to turn things around for these miners and for many other hard working Americans,’ said Administrator Pruitt. ‘Back-to-Basics means returning EPA to its core mission: protecting the environment by engaging with state, local, and tribal partners to create sensible regulations that enhance economic growth.’” [EPA, [4/13/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-back-basics-agenda-pennsylvania-coal-mine)]

**April: EPA Shut Down Climate Adaption Program**. According to an article in The Hill, “The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is shutting down a program at its headquarters that helps states and localities adapt to the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels. An EPA official said a team of four staffers within the EPA’s policy office who had worked on the adaptation responsibilities are being reassigned. But the official stressed that regional offices will continue their climate adaptation efforts.” [The Hill, [4/7/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/327854-epa-shutting-climate-adaptation-program)]

**April: Overturned A Ban On The Hunting Of Predators In Alaskan Wildlife Refuges**. According to the New York Times, “Overturned a ban on the hunting of predators in Alaskan wildlife refuges. April 3 Who wanted it changed? Alaskan politicians opposed the law, which prevented hunters from shooting wolves and grizzly bears on wildlife refuges, arguing that the state, not the federal government, has authority over those lands. Congress passed a bill revoking the rule, which Mr. Trump signed into law.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**April: Withdrew Guidance For Federal Agencies To Include Greenhouse Gas Emissions In Environmental Reviews**. According to the New York Times, “Withdrew guidance for federal agencies to include greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews. April 5 Who wanted it changed? Republicans in Congress opposed the guidelines, which advised federal agencies to account for greenhouse gas emissions and potential climate effects in environmental impact reviews. They argued that the government lacked the authority to make such recommendations, and that it would be impossible to plan for the uncertain effects of climate change.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**April 12: “Rolled Back Limits On Toxic Discharge From Power Plants Into Public Waterways.** According to the New York Times, “Rolled back limits on toxic discharge from power plants into public waterways. April 12 Who wanted it changed? Utility and fossil fuel industry groups opposed the rule, which limited the amount of toxic metals — arsenic, lead, and mercury, among others — power plants could release into public waterways. Industry representatives said complying with the guidelines would be extremely expensive. The E.P.A. has delayed compliance deadlines while it reconsiders the rule, which had been challenged in court.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**April 18: Ordered Review Of Rule Limiting Methane Emissions At New Oil And Gas Drilling Sites**. According to the New York Times, “Ordered review of rule limiting methane emissions at new oil and gas drilling sites. April 18 Who wanted it changed? Lobbyists for the oil and gas industries petitioned Mr. Pruitt to reconsider the rule, which went into effect last August, limiting emissions of methane, smog-forming compounds and other toxic pollutants from new and modified oil and gas wells. They argued the rule was technologically infeasible.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**April: EPA Announced It Would Reconsider ELG Rule**. According to an EPA press release, “EPA announced the agency’s decision to review and reconsider the final rule that amends the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating category under the Clean Water Act (ELG Rule), which has been estimated to cost $480 million per year and has a reported average cost of $1.2 billion per year during the first five years of compliance. ‘This action is another example of EPA implementing President Trump’s vision of being good stewards of our natural resources, while not developing regulations that hurt our economy and kill jobs,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.” [EPA, [4/13/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reconsider-elg-rule)]

**April 27: Delayed A Lawsuit Over A Rule Regulating Airborne Mercury Emissions From Power Plants**. According to the New York Times, “ Delayed a lawsuit over a rule regulating airborne mercury emissions from power plants. April 27 Who wanted it changed? Coal companies, along with Republican officials in several states, sued the government over this rule, which regulated the amount of mercury and other toxic pollutants that fossil fuel-fired power plants can emit into the air. They argued that the rule helped shutter coal plants, many of which are already compliant. Oral arguments in the case have been delayed while the E.P.A. reviews the rule.” [New York Times, [5/2/17](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0)]

**May: Pruitt Dismissed Members Of The Board Of Scientific Counselors**. According to Science Mag, “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fired members of a scientific advisory board yesterday. The agency quietly forced out some members of the Board of Scientific Counselors just weeks after leaders told them their tenure would be renewed, said Robert Richardson, an ecological economist at Michigan State University and one of those dismissed. The board is tasked with reviewing the work of EPA scientists and provides feedback that can be a powerful voice in shaping the agency’s future research. The cuts ‘just came out of nowhere,’ Richardson said. ‘The role that science has played in the agency in the past, this step is a significant step in a different direction,’ he said today. ‘Anecdotally, based on what we know about the administrator, I think it will be science that will appear to be friendlier to industry, the fossil fuel industry, the chemical industry, and I think it will be science that marginalizes climate change science.’” [Science Mag, [5/6/17](http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/05/epa-fires-members-science-advisory-board)]

**May: Trump Budget Cut EPA By 31%.** According to ABC News, “The budget released by the White House today follows through on President Trump’s campaign trail promise to drastically reduce the size of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The new budget plan cuts 31 percent of the agency’s funding overall, including significant reductions to research programs and enforcement of clean air and clean water programs. Environmental research faces one of the largest cuts; Trump’s budget proposes cutting almost half of the research budget, or $234 million.” [ABC News, [5/23/17](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trumps-budget-cuts-epa-31-percent-campaign-promise/story?id=47583180)]

**May: Pruitt Proposed Rule To Suspend Compliance Dates Regulation Limiting Toxic Discharges From Coal-Fired Power Plants**. According to Politico, “EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed regulation Thursday suspending compliance dates for an Obama administration regulation limiting toxic discharges from coal-fired power plants, Pro’s Annie Snider reports. The agency will accept public comment for 30 days on its plan to suspend compliance dates implementing two aspects of the rule, which limits waterborne pollutants like arsenic and lead. Those requirements would be indefinitely suspended ‘until EPA promulgates a final rule specifying compliance dates.’” [Politico, [5/25/17](http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/05/26/white-house-expects-earful-on-climate-in-sicily-220531)]

**May: EPA Took Steps Postponed Steam Electric Power Plant Effluent Guidelines Rule**. According to EPA, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt today signed a proposed rule to postpone compliance dates for the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for steam electric power plants (ELG Rule), which was published in November 2015. ‘This proposed rule is one of nearly two dozen significant regulatory reform actions I have taken during my short time as EPA Administrator to protect the environment, jobs and affordable, reliable energy. Today’s action, if finalized, will provide relief from the deadlines under the existing ELG Rule while we carefully consider the next steps for this regulation,’ said Administrator Pruitt.” [EPA, [5/25/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-postpone-costly-steam-electric-power-plant-effluent-guidelines-rule)]

**May: EPA Stays Landfill Methane Rules**. According to an EPA press release, “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a 90-day administrative stay for the August 2016 New Source Performance Standards and Emissions Guidelines for municipal solid waste landfills. In a May 5th letter, EPA notified industry petitioners that the agency was granting their reconsideration request. This stay will allow EPA to reconsider certain aspects of the new source standards and emission guidelines for existing landfills. Consistent with President Trump’s Energy Independence Executive Order Energy Independence Executive Order, EPA will continue to review these actions to ensure that they protect the environment and enable a growing economy. ‘EPA is continuing to ensure that the public has the opportunity to comment on agency actions,’ said Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘Reconsidering portions of the landfill rules will give stakeholders the opportunity to review these requirements, assess economic impacts and provide feedback to the agency through the reconsideration process.’” [EPA, [5/23/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-stays-landfill-methane-rules)]

**May: EPA Extended Timeline for Pesticide Applicators Rule**. According to an EPA press release, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt today announced a 12-month extension for implementation of the revised final Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators (C&T) rule. EPA received feedback from states and stakeholders that more time and resources are needed to prepare for compliance with the rule. The extended timeline will enable EPA to work with states and provide adequate compliance and training resources. ‘In order to achieve both environmental protection and economic prosperity, we must give the regulated community, which includes farmers and ranchers, adequate time to come into compliance with regulations. Extending the timeline for implementation of this rule will enable EPA to consult with states, assist with education, training and guidance, and prevent unnecessary burdens from overshadowing the rule’s intended benefits,’ said Administrator Pruitt.” [EPA, [5/11/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extends-timeline-pesticide-applicators-rule)]

**May: EPA Sought Delay Of California Waiver Suit**. According to Politico, “The Trump administration has asked a federal court to postpone arguments in a case over EPA’s 2013 approval of a Clean Air Act waiver allowing California to set stricter emissions limits for diesel engines. In its filing in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Friday, EPA says the new Trump administration needs more time to review the waiver and ‘determine whether it will be reconsidered.’ If EPA does reconsider and revoke that waiver, it could lead to a challenge of the agency’s authority on that issue. California receives special treatment under the Clean Air Act to set stricter limits because of its history of high pollution levels, if EPA grants a waiver. However, the state and environmental groups argue the law does not specify that EPA has the authority to revoke a waiver once granted.” [Politico, [5/8/17](https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/epa-seeks-delay-of-california-waiver-suit-087385)]

**June: Pruitt Moved For One-Year Delay On Ozone Designations.**According to E&E News, “U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is proceeding with a one-year delay in the implementation of the 2015 air quality standard for ground-level ozone. In a notice set for publication in tomorrow’s Federal Register, Pruitt said he is pushing back attainment designations for the 70-parts-per-billion standard from this October until October 2018. The notice cites a Clean Air Act provision that allows for the one-year extension if there is ‘insufficient information’ to meet the normal timetable for the designations. EPA is evaluating ‘a host of issues’ related to the 2015 standard, the notice says, such as understanding the role of background ozone and ‘appropriately accounting’ for ozone that wafts into the United States from other countries. ‘The administrator has determined that he cannot assess whether he has the necessary information to finalize designations until additional analyses from this evaluation are available,’ Pruitt wrote.” [E&E News, [6/27/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/06/27/stories/1060056662)]

**June: EPA Moved To Rescind WOTUS**. According to a press release, “The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining ‘waters of the United States’ or WOTUS. This action would, when finalized, provide certainty in the interim, pending a second rulemaking in which the agencies will engage in a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of ‘waters of the United States.’ The proposed rule would be implemented in accordance with Supreme Court decisions, agency guidance, and longstanding practice. ‘We are taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation’s farmers and businesses,’ said Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘This is the first step in the two-step process to redefine ‘waters of the U.S.’ and we are committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty, in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public.’” [EPA, [6/27/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-us-army-move-rescind-2015-waters-us)]

**June: EPA Delayed State Deadlines For NAAQS**. According to an EPA Press Release, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt sent a letter to governors today to inform them of EPA’s efforts related to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone promulgated in October 2015. EPA is extending the deadline for promulgating initial area designations, by one year, for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. ‘States have made tremendous progress and significant investment cleaning up the air. We will continue to work with states to ensure they are on a path to compliance,’ said Administrator Scott Pruitt.” [EPA Press Release, [6/6/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extend-deadline-2015-ozone-naaqs-area-designations)]

* **Pursuant To The Language In The Recently-Enacted FY2017 Omnibus Funding Bill, Administrator Pruitt Is Establishing An Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force To Develop Additional Flexibilities For States**. According to an EPA Press Release, “The National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone is an outdoor air regulation under the Clean Air Act. As part of the process to determine what areas of the country are able to meet the current air quality standards, states are currently submitting their proposals for area designations under the 70 parts per billion (ppb) standard, which was lowed from 75 ppb in 2015. Areas designated as being in ‘nonattainment’ of the standard face consequences, including: increased regulatory burdens, restrictions on infrastructure investment, and increased costs to businesses. EPA is giving states more time to develop air quality plans and EPA is looking at providing greater flexibility to states as they develop their plans. And, pursuant to the language in the recently-enacted FY2017 Omnibus funding bill, Administrator Pruitt is establishing an Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force to develop additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone standard.” [EPA Press Release, [6/6/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extend-deadline-2015-ozone-naaqs-area-designations)]

**June: EPA Signed A Final Rule To Further Delay The Effective Date Of The RMP Rule Amendments**. According to the EPA, “On June 9, 2017, the EPA Administrator signed a final rule to further delay the effective date of the RMP rule amendments for 20 months until February 19, 2019. EPA is conducting a reconsideration proceeding to review objections raised by petitioners to the final RMP amendments rule. This delay of the effective date will allow EPA to complete the reconsideration process and to consider other issues that may benefit from additional comment.” [EPA, [6/9/17](https://www.epa.gov/rmp/final-amendments-risk-management-program-rmp-rule)]

**June: EPA Suspends Science Committee's Work, Mulls Replacing Most Members.** According to Politico, “EPA is suspending meetings of a key scientific advisory committee for the rest of this year while the agency considers whether to replace most of its members. The agency told members of the Board of Scientific Counselors that they would have to reapply for their seat if their first term expires this August or next March, rather than being automatically reappointed for a second three-year term as has traditionally been the case. Acting Administrator for the Office of Research and Development Robert Kavlock’s email to BOSC members on Monday announcing the change follows a previous decision not to automatically re-up members whose term ended in April of this year.” [Politico, [6/20/17](https://www.politicopro.com/energy/story/2017/06/epa-almost-completely-wipes-out-research-advice-committee-158543)]

**July: EPA Proposed Keeping Nitrogen Oxide Standard As Is.**According to Politico, “EPA will propose leaving in place the nitrogen oxide standards last updated in 2010, according to a prepublication notice. Administrator Scott Pruitt concluded that the latest scientific research and other analyses ‘support the degree of public health protection provided by the current 1-hour and annual primary NO2 standards and do not call into question any of the elements of those standards,’ EPA said in its notice. The proposal follows an EPA staff report in April that recommended keeping in place the 2010 standard because of uncertainty over whether lowering it would offer further public health protections. EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee also recommended retaining the current standards. The National Ambient Air Quality Standard covers nitrogen dioxide and several related pollutants that cause or worsen respiratory diseases, form acid raise and contribute to haze. NO2 is emitted by cars and other vehicles, along with coal and natural gas power plants. The U.S. has made significant headway on limiting nitrogen oxide emissions. According to EPA, nitrogen oxides decreased 61 percent between 1980 and 2016, and no monitoring stations in the U.S. currently measure NO2 above the current standards. The Obama administration in 2010 set a NO2 standard of 100 parts per billion over a one-hour period. A second standard, set in 1971, caps annual average NO2 exposure at 53 parts per billion. WHAT’S NEXT: EPA will take public comment on the proposal for 60 days once published in the Federal Register. The agency is under a court order to finalize the rule by April 6, 2018.” [Politico, [7/17/17](https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/epa-proposes-keeping-nox-standard-as-is-090594)]

**August: EPA Backed Utility Bid To Delay Cross-State Rule Case.**According to E&E News, “U.S. EPA is open to going along with a utility-proposed delay in proceedings in litigation over the agency’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule update, according to a Friday court filing. But the agency isn’t happy at all with a related proposal to put its handling of the administrative reconsideration process under judicial supervision. The filing responded to a motion last week by the Utility Air Regulatory Group and other industry plaintiffs seeking a four-month extension in the briefing schedule because EPA had not yet addressed nine petitions seeking reconsideration of various aspects of the rule, often known by its acronym, CSAPR. In Friday’s reply, filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, EPA lawyers said they did not oppose the extension motion, as long as the revised schedule takes account of the December holidays. But they bristled at industry’s request that the court require EPA to report within 60 days on the status of the reconsideration petitions, most of which date back to December.” [E&E News, [8/14/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/08/14/stories/1060058739)]

**August: EPA Sought 16-Month Delay Of Texas Haze Deadline.**According to Politico, “EPA on Friday asked a federal court in D.C. to rewrite a consent decree reached with environmental groups under the Obama administration requiring the agency to take action on Texas pollution contributing to regional haze. The court had previously given EPA until Sept. 9 to either accept a state plan or write a federal plan, but on Friday EPA asked the court to give it until Dec. 31, 2018. The agency’s filing says that since the Trump administration took office, ‘EPA and Texas have engaged in a productive level of dialogue that has not occurred in many years.’ EPA and Texas regulators have agreed on a plan to write a rule ‘that would be more consistent with the [Clean Air Act’s] preference for cooperative federalism, and would produce a plan that more effectively addresses concerns raised by the State,’ the filing added. Environmentalists have until Aug. 29 to object in court, but they made their feelings clear in a Friday evening statement blasting EPA’s proposal as bad news for residents of Oklahoma who breathe in some of that Texas air. ‘Scott Pruitt just made it clear that he plans to abandon the residents of his home state to placate Texas polluters who don’t give a second thought about Oklahoma families or its natural places,’ said Johnson Bridgwater, director of the Sierra Club’s Oklahoma Chapter. The green groups noted that EPA was supposed to have done all this back in 2007, making the proposed delay that much more untenable.” [Politico, 8/21/17]

**August: EPA Fought 'Speculative' Bid To Vacate Ozone NAAQS Designations Delay**. According to Inside EPA, “EPA is fighting several states’ request for a federal appeals court to vacate the agency’s since-withdrawn notice delaying by one year designations for which areas are attaining the 2015 ozone air standard, saying it is ‘speculative’ for the states to say the delay was unlawful and that EPA should be prevented from trying it again. ‘Petitioners’ concern that the withdrawal could be reversed by the Court in some future action is highly speculative, and could be adequately addressed by the Court in its review of any such future action. Accordingly, that speculation provides no basis for the Court to reach out and vacate an action that the Agency has already withdrawn,’ EPA says in an Aug. 29 filing with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.” [InsideEPA, [8/30/17](https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-fights-speculative-bid-vacate-ozone-naaqs-designations-delay)]

**August: EPA Announced Intent To Revisit Provisions Of Phase 2 Heavy-Duty Rules**. According to a press release, “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today its intent to revisit provisions of the Phase 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines following concerns raised by stakeholders in the trailer and glider industry. ‘In light of the significant issues raised, the agency has decided to revisit the Phase 2 trailer and glider provisions,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘We intend to initiate a rulemaking process that incorporates the latest technical data and is wholly consistent with our authority under the Clean Air Act.’” [EPA, [8/17/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-intent-revisit-provisions-phase-2-heavy-duty-rules)]

**August: EPA Moved To Rewrite Limits For Coal Power Plant Wastewater.**According to Associated Press, “The Environmental Protection Agency says it plans to scrap an Obama-era measure limiting water pollution from coal-fired power plants. A letter from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt released Monday as part of a legal appeal said he will seek to revise the 2015 guidelines mandating increased treatment for wastewater from steam electric power-generating plants. Acting at the behest of electric utilities who opposed the stricter standards, Pruitt first moved in April to delay implementation of the new guidelines. The wastewater flushed from the coal-fired plants into rivers and lakes typically contains traces of such highly toxic heavy metals as lead, arsenic, mercury and selenium. ‘After carefully considering your petitions, I have decided that it is appropriate and in the public interest to conduct a rulemaking to potentially revise (the regulations),’ Pruitt wrote in the letter addressed to the pro-industry Utility Water Act Group and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Pruitt’s letter, dated Friday, was filed Monday with the Fifth Circuit U. S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which is hearing legal challenges of the wastewater rule. With Pruitt now moving to rewrite the standards, EPA has asked to court to freeze the legal fight.” [Associated Press, [8/14/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/epa-moves-to-rewrite-limits-for-coal-power-plant-wastewater/2017/08/14/f25f738e-8128-11e7-9e7a-20fa8d7a0db6_story.html?utm_term=.6226cb36e098)]

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**September: EPA Sent Yeast Air Toxics Rule Delay For OMB Review**. According to Inside EPA, “EPA has sent for White House pre-publication review its delayed final rule limiting air toxics from nutritional yeast manufacturing facilities, after the regulation was held up by President Donald Trump’s executive order (EO) requiring agencies to identify two rules for repeal for every new regulation that they issue. The agency sent the final rule to the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Sept. 6, according to OMB’s website. Although OMB review typically lasts up to 90 days, EPA is under a court-ordered deadline of Oct. 1 to issue the rule, and the White House’s website predicts finalization of the rule in October. OMB review of a rule typically takes 90 days before agencies can publish it in the Federal Register, but can take more or less time.” [InsideEPA, [9/8/17](https://insideepa.com/daily-feed/epa-sends-final-yeast-air-toxics-rule-omb-review)]

**September: EPA Announced Plan To Replace Clean Power Plan**. According to the Hill, “Federal officials expect to finalize their review of the Obama administration’s climate rule for power plans this fall, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Thursday in a court filing. President Trump in March ordered the EPA to review and consider repealing the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan, which sets carbon reduction targets for states to apply to their energy sectors. The EPA is widely expected to formally order the rule off the books at the end of its review. The agency has submitted its Clean Power Plan proposal to the Office of Management and Budget’s regulations office for review. Once it returns to the EPA, the agency said in its court filing, ‘the administrator will sign the proposed rule and EPA will send it to the Office of the Federal Register’ for a public comment period.” [The Hill, [9/7/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/349679-power-plant-rule-repeal-announcement-likely-this-fall-epa)]

**September: EPA To Reconsider Obama-Era Coal Ash Disposal Rule**. According to The Hill, “Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulators will reconsider portions of an Obama administration rule regulating coal ash, a byproduct of fossil fuel-fired power plants. The rule, finalized in 2015, set new standards for coal ash disposal sites and boosted inspection and monitoring operations to make sure the sites don’t leak or spill. Coal ash is a waste product produced by burning coal. It can contain small amounts of toxic chemicals, and is generally stored in ponds or pits near the power plants that burn them.” [The Hill, [9/14/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/350747-epa-to-reconsider-obama-era-coal-ash-disposal-rule)]

**September: EPA Finalized Rule To Postpone Steam Electric Power Plant Effluent Guidelines Rule**. According to EPA, “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized a rule postponing certain compliance dates by two years for the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for steam electric power plants (ELG Rule) that were issued in November 2015. ‘Today’s final rule resets the clock for certain portions of the agency’s effluent guidelines for power plants, providing relief from the existing regulatory deadlines while the agency revisits some of the rule’s requirements,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The final rule postpones the compliance dates for the best available technology economically achievable (‘BAT’) effluent limitations and pretreatment standards (‘PSES’) for two wastestreams at existing sources, bottom ash transport water and flue gas desulfurization (‘FGD’) wastewater, for a period of two years.” [EPA, [9/13/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rule-postpone-steam-electric-power-plant-effluent-guidelines-rule)]

**September: EPA Defended Stay Of Utility ELG Despite Ruling Narrowing Delay Authority**. According to InsideEPA, “Environmentalists are invoking a federal district court ruling that vacated the Trump administration’s delay of an Obama-era Interior Department (DOI) royalty rule as proof that EPA’s similar delay of Clean Water Act (CWA) power plant effluent limits is also unlawful, but the agency says the decision shows that the CWA suit is procedurally flawed. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia is weighing competing briefs from environmentalists and EPA over the proper impact of the royalty rule case, Becerra, et al., v. DOI, after the judge there took a narrow view of agencies’ authority to stay implementation of existing rules ‘pending judicial review’ through little-used authority in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).” [InsideEPA, [9/5/17](https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-defends-stay-utility-elg-despite-ruling-narrowing-delay-authority)]

**September: EPA Threatened To Stop Funding Justice Dept. Environmental Work**. According to the New York Times, “Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency administrator who has aggressively pushed to dismantle regulations and downsize the organization, is threatening to reach outside his agency and undermine the Justice Department’s work enforcing antipollution laws, documents and interviews show. Under Mr. Pruitt, the E.P.A. has quietly said it may cut off a major funding source for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. Its lawyers handle litigation on behalf of the E.P.A.’s Superfund program seeking to force polluters to pay for cleaning up sites they left contaminated with hazardous waste. The E.P.A. reimburses the Justice Department for that work, paying more than $20 million annually in recent years, or enough for 115 full-time employees, budget documents show.” [New York Times, [9/27/17](file://\\beehive-dc-1\users\bobby\Clean%20Air%20Defense%20Campaign\Scott%20Pruitt,%20the%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency%20administrator%20who%20has%20aggressively%20pushed%20to%20dismantle%20regulations%20and%20downsize%20the%20organization,%20is%20threatening%20to%20reach%20outside%20his%20agency%20and%20undermine%20the%20Justice%20Department’s%20work%20enforcing%20antipollution%20laws,%20documents%20and%20interviews%20show.)]

**October: EPA Said No Update On Ozone Designations**. According to InsideEPA, “EPA says it has ‘no further information’ about when it will issue designations for which areas of the United States are either attaining or in nonattainment with the 2015 ozone standard after appearing to miss a Clean Air Act deadline of Oct. 1 for the findings, and environmentalists are threatening a suit to force issuance of the designations. Under the air law, EPA has two years from the issuance of a new national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) to issue final designations, which triggers an air law timeline for states to craft state implementation plans outlining the air pollution control measures they will impose in order to either stay in attainment or get out of nonattainment. EPA finalized its revised ozone NAAQS Oct. 1, 2015, making the designations deadline Oct. 1 this year.” [InsideEPA, [10/2/07](https://insideepa.com/daily-news/epa-says-no-update-ozone-designations-nrdc-threatens-lawsuit?destination=node/205720)]

**October: Draft Of EPA Strategic Plan Dropped All Reference To Climate Change**. According to Politico, “The Trump administration has dropped all mention of climate change or rules to reduce carbon emissions from a strategic plan outlining EPA’s priorities for the next four years, according to a draft obtained by POLITICO. The draft was circulated around EPA for comment earlier today along with an accompanying one-page graphic. The document creates a new framework for EPA’s mission that reflects the management style of Administrator Scott Pruitt. It defines EPA’s ‘core mission’ as ensuring clean air, water and land. It calls for more ‘cooperative federalism’ to empower state governments. And it touts the ‘rule of law and process,’ which is meant to ‘refocus the Agency on its statutory obligations under the law.’” {Politico Prom, [10/4/17](https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/10/draft-epa-strategic-plan-drops-all-reference-to-climate-change-093937)]

**October: Trump Nominated Coal Lobbyist Andrew Wheeler To Be Deputy Administrator Of EPA**. According to EPA, “Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intention to nominate Andrew Wheeler as deputy administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)…’Andrew will bring extraordinary credentials to EPA that will greatly assist the Agency as we work to implement our agenda,’ said Administrator Pruitt. ‘He has spent his entire career working to improve environmental outcomes for Americans across the country and understands the importance of providing regularity certainty for our country.’” [EPA, [10/5/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/andrew-wheeler-nominated-epa-deputy-administrator)]

**October: EPA Announced Repeal Of Clean Power Plan.** According to the New York Times, “The Environmental Protection Agency announced on Tuesday that Scott Pruitt, the chief of the agency, had signed a measure to repeal President Barack Obama’s signature policy to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, setting up a bitter fight over the future of America’s efforts to tackle global warming. Mr. Pruitt, who had signaled the move at an event with coal miners in eastern Kentucky on Monday, said in a news release that his predecessors had departed from regulatory norms in writing the Clean Power Plan, which was finalized in 2015 and would have pushed states to move away from coal in favor of sources of electricity that produce fewer carbon emissions.” [New York Times, [10/9/17](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/climate/clean-power-plan.html?_r=0)]

**October: EPA Announced Directive To End Sue And Settle**. According to the EPA, “In fulfilling his promise to end the practice of regulation through litigation that has harmed the American public, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued an Agency-wide directive today designed to end ‘sue and settle’ practices within the Agency, providing an unprecedented level of public participation and transparency in EPA consent decrees and settlement agreements. ‘The days of regulation through litigation are over,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘We will no longer go behind closed doors and use consent decrees and settlement agreements to resolve lawsuits filed against the Agency by special interest groups where doing so would circumvent the regulatory process set forth by Congress. Additionally, gone are the days of routinely paying tens of thousands of dollars in attorney’s fees to these groups with which we swiftly settle.’” [EPA, [10/16/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-end-epa-sue-settle)]

**October: EPA Walked Back Biofuels Mandate Changes.** According to The Hill, “The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is backing off from changes it floated to biofuels policy after significant pushback from Midwestern GOP senators and a direct intervention from President Trump. In a letter to seven senators Thursday, EPA head Scott Pruitt pledged that he would not move forward with various ideas regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), including lowering the biodiesel mandate and allowing ethanol exports to count toward the mandate. ‘EPA has not taken any formal action to propose this idea, nor will EPA pursue regulations,’ Pruitt wrote about the export idea in the letter, which Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) released publicly.” [The Hill, [10/20/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/356370-epa-walks-back-biofuels-mandate-changes)]

**October: EPA Canceled Talk On Climate Change By Agency Scientists**. According to the New York Times, “The Environmental Protection Agency has canceled the speaking appearance of three agency scientists who were scheduled to discuss climate change at a conference on Monday in Rhode Island, according to the agency and several people involved. John Konkus, an E.P.A. spokesman and a former Trump campaign operative in Florida, confirmed that agency scientists would not speak at the State of the Narragansett Bay and Watershed program in Providence. He provided no further explanation.” [New York Times, [10/22/17](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/22/climate/epa-scientists.html)]

**October: EPA Planned To Repeal Emission Standards For Truck Components**. According to the Washington Post, “The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to repeal tighter emissions standards for truck components, a rule adopted in the final months of the Obama administration aimed at controlling traditional air pollutants as well as greenhouse-gas emissions linked to climate change. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who privately met in May with the manufacturer that stands to benefit most from the rule’s repeal, suggested in August that he would reexamine the rule ‘in light of the significant issues raised’ and see whether it is consistent with the agency’s authority under the Clean Air Act. The Office of Management and Budget has posted a notice saying that on Saturday it received the proposal to rescind the rule. Asked about the regulation, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said in an email, ‘EPA does not comment on items under interagency review.’” [Washington Post, [10/23/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/epa-may-repeal-emission-standards-for-truck-components/2017/10/23/993170a0-b814-11e7-9e58-e6288544af98_story.html?utm_term=.53656003cff3)]

**October: EPA Blocked Scientists Who Get Agency Funding From Serving As Advisers**. According to the Washington Post, “Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, is poised to make wholesale changes to the agency’s key advisory group by jettisoning scientists who have received grants from the EPA and replacing them with industry experts and state government officials. The move represents a fundamental shift, one that could change the scientific and technical advice that historically has guided the agency as it crafts environmental regulations. The decision to bar any researcher who receives EPA grant money from serving as an adviser appears to be unprecedented.” [Washington Post, [10/30/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/10/30/in-unprecedented-shift-epa-to-prohibit-scientists-who-receive-agency-funding-from-serving-as-advisers/?utm_term=.379d2777a5ff)]

* **Pruitt: “EPA Advisory Committee Members Will Be Financially Independent From The Agency.”** According to EPA, “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a new directive today to ensure that any advisors serving on an EPA Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) are independent and free from any real, apparent, or potential interference with their ability to objectively serve as a committee member. ‘Whatever science comes out of EPA, shouldn’t be political science,’ said Administrator Pruitt. ‘From this day forward, EPA advisory committee members will be financially independent from the Agency.’” [EPA, [10/31/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-ensure-independence-geographic-diversity)]

**November: Senate Approved Bill Wehrum As Assistant Administrator For EPA’s Office Of Air And Radiation**. According to EPA, “Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt praised the U.S. Senate vote to confirm William (Bill) Wehrum to serve as the Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. ‘I want to thank Leader McConnell and Chairman Barrasso for their continued partnership and outstanding leadership with getting Bill confirmed to such an important role at the agency. Bill Wehrum has a long history of public service, including over 30 years working in the environmental field. I look forward to him joining EPA to help us implement our positive environmental agenda and administer programs that ensure that Americans have access to clean air,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.” [EPA, [11/9/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/senate-confirms-william-wehrum-lead-epa-air-office)]

**November: EPA Proposed Reversing Stricter Pollution Rules For Heavy-Duty Trucks With Older Engines**. According to the Washington Post, “The Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule Thursday to repeal tighter emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks with older engines, an Obama-era regulation aimed at controlling soot and other pollutants along with greenhouse-gas emissions linked to climate change. Major trucking groups and engine manufacturers supported the 2016 rule, which was set to take full effect in January. But it was fiercely opposed by a handful of companies that manufacture truck components called gliders and trailers. A glider, or body, is the front of a truck, including the cab, which fits over the engine. Trailers are the storage components that make up most of the length of a truck.” [Washington Post, [11/9/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/11/09/epa-proposes-reversing-stricter-pollution-rules-for-heavy-duty-trucks-with-older-engines/?utm_term=.d59ec20ff7b3)]

**November: DC Circuit Court Grants Trump EPA Request To Extend Deadline For Farmers To Report Emissions From Livestock Operations**. According to a press release, “On Wednesday, November 22, 2017, in response to a request from the Trump administration EPA, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals effectively extended the deadline for farmers to report air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at livestock operations until January 22, 2018. The decision postponed the effective date of the Court’s April 2017 decision vacating an EPA rule that exempted these farms from certain statutory reporting obligations. ‘EPA is committed to providing America’s farmers and ranchers – people committed to conserving the land and the environment- the clarity needed in meeting their reporting obligations required by law,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.” [EPA, [11/28/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/dc-circuit-court-grants-trump-epa-request-extend-deadline-farmers-report-emissions)]

**December: EPA Removed Reporter From Pruitt Event In Iowa**. According to the US Press Freedom Tracker, “Ethan Stoetzer, a reporter with InsideSources Iowa, was removed from and prevented from covering an event with Scott Pruitt, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in Nevada, Iowa. On December 1, 2017, Pruitt spoke at the Couser Cattle Company about the EPA and its commitment to renewable fuels. The invite-only event was open to the press and was livestreamed to the public by the Des Moines Register. Stoetzer attended the event as press, and gave his name and the name of his outlet to an EPA press secretary at the event. In an article for InsideSources about the incident, Stoetzer wrote that he was approached by a Story County Sheriff’s Deputy, along with staff from both the EPA and the Couser Cattle Company, about 10 minutes after he arrived at the event. According to Stoetzer, the staffers and sheriff’s deputy refused to identify themselves when asked, but told him that he was not on the press list for the event and ordered him to leave the premises. ‘They’re asking you to leave, you didn’t RSVP properly, and it’s too late to do it now,’ Stoetzer recalled the sheriff’s deputy saying.” [US Press Freedom Tracker, [12/1/17](https://pressfreedomtracker.us/all-incidents/epa-removes-reporter-ethan-stoetzer-scott-pruitt-event-iowa/)]

**December: Pruitt Sent Memo On Internal Review Of New Source Review**. According to Utility Dive, “EPA’s New Source Review rules govern the construction of new or significantly retrofitted power plants. Under the rules, power plants making major upgrades must estimate their emissions levels based on their design improvements. In the past, EPA would review these pre-construction plans and challenge them if it felt companies were not assessing emissions properly. Often, these challenges involved expected market demand for a generator’s electricity after retrofits, notes Carol McCabe of Manko Gold Katcher & Fox. DTE challenged the NSR, arguing that upgrades to its 3,300 MW coal plant were routine maintenance and not a ‘major modification’ that required NSR action. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit twice upheld the EPA’s interpretation, allowing NSR to be used. Pruitt, however, wrote in his memo that the case had created uncertainty in how NSR is administered, and so EPA would alter how it handles pre-construction permits under the rule.” [Utility Dive, [12/12/17](https://www.utilitydive.com/news/epa-to-drop-key-new-source-review-enforcement-provision/512825/); EPA, [12/7/17](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-12/documents/nsr_policy_memo.12.7.17.pdf)]

**December: EPA Releases Annual Regulatory Plan**. According to a press release, “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the rest of the federal government, released its Semiannual Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions and Regulatory Plan. The Semiannual Regulatory Agenda provides updates to the public about regulatory activity to support EPA’s core mission to protect human health and the environment. The latest Regulatory Plan describes the 13 most significant regulatory priorities the Agency expects to propose or finalize in the upcoming year. ‘EPA’s plan balances its statutory requirements to issue regulations and its commitment to providing regulatory certainty through improvements to existing regulations that were flawed, outdated, ineffective, or unnecessarily burdensome,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.” [EPA, [12/14/17](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-annual-regulatory-plan)]

**December: EPA Announced First Steps Toward Repealing Guidelines To Curb Smog-Forming Volatile Organic Compounds From Existing Oil And Gas Operations**. According to the Center for American Progress, “On December 15, 2017, the Trump administration released its ‘Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions.’ In that plan, the EPA revealed that it is taking the first step toward repealing guidelines to curb smog-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from existing oil and gas operations. In October 2016, the Obama administration finalized these guidelines to limit VOC emissions in parts of the country that struggle to meet national ambient air quality standards for ozone.” [Center for American Progress, [1/18/17](https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/green/reports/2018/01/18/168720/trump-tweeting-tracking-trump-administrations-attacks-air-water-public-lands/)]

**December: Trump Administration Stopped Funding For Offshore Drilling Safety Study**. According to The Hill, “The Trump administration has paused its funding for a major study meant to improve how regulators enforce offshore oil and natural gas drilling safety. The congressionally chartered National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said Thursday that the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) sent a stop-work order for the study earlier this month. The National Academies had already gathered a committee of researchers for the study and conducted a meeting on the matter in October.” [The Hill, [12/21/17](http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/366092-trump-administration-halts-funding-for-offshore-drilling-safety)]

**December: Under Pruitt, Civil Cases Filed Were One-Third Fewer Than Under President Obama And One-Quarter Fewer Than Bush Administration**. According to the New York Times, “The Times built a database of civil cases filed at the E.P.A. during the Trump, Obama and Bush administrations. During the first nine months under Mr. Pruitt’s leadership, the E.P.A. started about 1,900 cases, about one-third fewer than the number under President Barack Obama’s first E.P.A. director and about one-quarter fewer than under President George W. Bush’s over the same time period. In addition, the agency sought civil penalties of about $50.4 million from polluters for cases initiated under Mr. Trump. Adjusted for inflation, that is about 39 percent of what the Obama administration sought and about 70 percent of what the Bush administration sought over the same time period.” [New York Times, [12/10/17](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/us/politics/pollution-epa-regulations.html)]

2018

**January: Trump Administration Missed Deadline For Emissions Report**. According to EE News, “The Trump administration has missed a New Year’s Day deadline to report U.S. progress on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. The State Department was due to join other countries in submitting a biennial report to the United Nations detailing its progress on meeting emissions reduction targets for 2020, but the Jan. 1 deadline has lapsed. The State Department did not respond to inquiries on when or if it would meet the obligation. President Trump last year announced plans to exit the Paris climate treaty in 2020, but the United States will remain a member of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The reporting requirement falls under the UNFCCC, so the United States would be obligated to report on its emissions every second year even after it is no longer a party to the Paris accord.” [EE News, [1/3/18](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2018/01/03/stories/1060069945)]

**January: EPA Aims To Replace Obama-Era Climate, Water Regulations In 2018**. According to Reuters, “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will replace Obama-era carbon and clean water regulations and open up a national debate on climate change in 2018, part of a list of priorities for the year that also includes fighting lead contamination in public drinking water. The agenda, laid out by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in an exclusive interview with Reuters on Tuesday, marks an extension of the agency’s efforts under President Donald Trump to weaken or kill regulations the administration believes are too broad and harm economic growth, but which environmentalists say are critical to human health. ‘The climate is changing. That’s not the debate. The debate is how do we know what the ideal surface temperature is in 2100?... I think the American people deserve an open honest transparent discussion about those things,’ said Pruitt, who has frequently cast doubt on the causes and implications of global warming.” [Reuters, [1/9/18](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-epa-pruitt-exclusive/exclusive-trumps-epa-aims-to-replace-obama-era-climate-water-regulations-in-2018-idUSKBN1EZ079)]

**January: Trump EPA Considered Changing Or Scrapping The Requirement That Anyone Working With Pesticides In Agriculture Be At Least 18 Years Old**. According to the Huffington Post, “If the Environmental Protection Agency follows through with a reform now under consideration, teenage farmworkers and other working minors would once again be allowed to handle dangerous pesticides while on the job. The EPA is now reevaluating a 2015 rule that tightened safety standards for farmworkers. In particular, the agency is considering changing or scrapping the requirement that anyone working with pesticides in agriculture be at least 18 years old. Doctors had called for those restrictions to be put in place because pesticides can increase the risk of cancer or impact brain development in children.” [Huffington Post, [1/10/18](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trumps-epa-could-expose-child-workers-to-dangerous-pesticides_us_5a565e90e4b0a300f9054405)]

**January: Scott Pruitt Aims To Accelerate His Efforts To Remake The EPA**. According to a press release, “Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt plans to use his second year on the job to accelerate efforts to remake the agency, saying he wants to speed its permitting processes and transform a culture he says is bureaucratic.” [EPA, [1/17/18](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/icymi-scott-pruitt-aims-accelerate-his-efforts-remake-epa)]

**January: EPA Withdraws “Once In Always In” Policy For Major Sources Under Clean Air Act**. According to a press release, “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a guidance memorandum withdrawing the ‘once in always in’ policy for the classification of major sources of hazardous air pollutants under section 112 of the Clean Air Act. With the new guidance, sources of hazardous air pollutants previously classified as ‘major sources’ may be reclassified as ‘area’ sources when the facility limits its potential to emit below major source thresholds. ‘This guidance is based on a plain language reading of the statute that is in line with EPA’s guidance for other provisions of the Clean Air Act,’ said Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator of EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. ‘It will reduce regulatory burden for industries and the states, while continuing to ensure stringent and effective controls on hazardous air pollutants.’” [EPA, [1/25/18](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/reducing-regulatory-burdens-epa-withdraws-once-always-policy-major-sources-under-clean)]