

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
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**Subject:** House spending bill takes aim at EPA, Interior rules

By Alex Guillén, Annie Snider and Esther Whieldon

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The House's fiscal 2018 Interior-EPA spending bill would prevent the Trump administration from completing a court-ordered rule on hardrock mining and block delay several other key regulations.

As part of a settlement the Obama administration reached with environmentalists, EPA must produce a rule by December requiring hardrock miners to have enough cash on hand to clean up their sites once work is complete. The settlement came a few months after the 2015 Gold King mine spill, although the lawsuit at issue was filed before that disaster. Republicans and industry oppose the rule, and the Forest Service has raised concerns that it will duplicate similar regulations issued by that agency.

The bill also includes a rider that would shield EPA's effort to withdraw the Waters of the U.S. regulation from legal challenges, mirroring a provision from the House's proposed fiscal 2018 spending bill for the Army Corps of Engineers.

House Republicans also included several other appropriations riders that mirrored earlier proposals but did not make it into the existing omnibus spending law, including delaying implementation of the 2015 ozone standard until 2025. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has already said he will miss a key implementation deadline for that rule.

A handful of riders in existing law are carried over as well, including language preventing the Interior Department from listing the sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species, a provision classifying electricity generated using biomass as carbon neutral and limits on climate change rules for agriculture.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over Interior and EPA plans to mark up the bill on Wednesday.

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