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From: POLITICO Pro
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Subject: EPA extends public comment period for WOTUS repeal

By Annie Snider

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EPA is giving the public another month to comment on its move to repeal the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. rule.

The agency announced today that it will extend the public comment period by 30 days, giving environmental groups, industry advocates and the public until Sept. 27 to weigh on its proposed rule to repeal the Obama-era regulation.

Supporters of the Obama rule, which increases the number of streams and wetlands that receive automatic federal protection, had criticized the length of time the Trump administration gave for public comment. The repeal rule was originally opened for 30 days of comment, although it was public for about a month before the comment period formally opened. The original Obama rule, also called the Clean Water Rule, was open for more than 200 days. Issues raised through the public comment process help lay the groundwork for future legal challenges.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has pushed to swiftly repeal the contentious regulation and draft his own rewrite defining which marshes, bogs and creeks are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act.

WHAT'S NEXT: Comments on the Trump administration's rule to repeal the WOTUS regulation are due by Sept. 27.

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