

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
**Sent:** Mon 7/31/2017 3:09:49 PM  
**Subject:** Greens urge court to revive EPA's methane rule for new oil and gas wells

By Alex Guillén

07/31/2017 11:06 AM EDT

Environmentalists today asked a federal court to order EPA to resume enforcing its methane rule for new oil and gas wells after the agency did not ask for an appeal in the window provided by the court.

A panel of three judges on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals earlier this month ruled Administrator Scott Pruitt's 90-day stay of the methane rule was unlawful but agreed to keep Pruitt's stay in place for two weeks to give the agency a chance to appeal. That time ran out last week, and while industry groups and states opposed to the rule asked for *en banc* review by the full court, EPA has remained silent.

The environmental groups today called the industry and state rehearing petitions "transparent attempts to seek further delay" that should not stop the court from ordering EPA to lift Pruitt's administrative stay, which otherwise is slated to expire on Aug. 31.

"The filing of such flimsy petitions cannot be permitted to accomplish the very delay this Court found unlawful, to the detriment of Petitioners' members and other Americans who are suffering continued exposure to dangerous—and easily preventable—air pollution," they wrote.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The court must decide whether to grant the environmentalists' request and order the rule reinstated, or explore the industry and states' appeal requests. The order keeping Pruitt's stay of the rule in place temporarily was specifically said to give EPA time to appeal, which the agency has not done.

*To view online:*

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