

2017 EPA Highlights

- **Withdrew from the Job-Killing Paris Climate Agreement:** Administrator Pruitt worked with President Trump to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement, until the COP agree to fair terms for America.
- **Stopped Backdoor Sue & Settle:** EPA ended the practice of settling lawsuits with activist groups pushing their agenda behind closed doors. Effectively ending the days of ‘regulation through litigation,’ EPA will handle pending litigation in an open, transparent process that allows affected stakeholders to participate – and saves taxpayers millions of dollars in attorneys’ fees and settlements – effectively taking away a source of taxpayers funding activist agendas. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-end-epa-sue-settle>
- **Ended the War on Coal and the “Clean Power Plan”:** Following issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).
 - EPA proposed to determine that the Obama-era regulation exceeds the Agency’s statutory authority.
 - Repealing the CPP will also facilitate the development of U.S. energy resources and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens associated with the development of those resources.
 - When Obama first took office there were 86,400 coal mining jobs; when he left office there were only 50,00, (a loss of nearly 4,550 a year). As of December 2017, there are now 50,500 jobs, the first net increase in years. (Source [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))
- **Stopped Conflict of Interests for EPA Advisory Committees:** Administrator Pruitt has reformed scientific advisory boards to ensure independence, geographic diversity, and integrity in EPA science. No member of EPA’s federal advisory committees will be able to receive agency grants to better ensure independence. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-ensure-independence-geographic-diversity>
 - According to EPA calculations, in just the last three years, members of three of EPA’s 22 FACs – the Science Advisory Board (SAB), Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) – received upwards of \$77 million in direct EPA grant funding while concurrently serving on these committees.
- **Restored Cooperative Federalism:** Administrator Pruitt has visited nearly 30 states in his first year on the job meeting with stakeholders, governors and other elected officials, to ensure EPA is being responsive to local needs for our diverse country.
 - Since March 1, 2017, EPA has worked with states to approve 206 state air plans/state implementation plans (SIP’s). EPA had a backlog of over 700 unapproved SIPs.
- **Redefining a ‘Water of the U.S.’:** EPA, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers are moving forward with a two-step process to rescind the 2015 “Waters of the United States” rule and redefine it in a way that provides farmers and land owners the regulatory certainty they need, while also returning power back to states and localities. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/elected-leaders-praise-trump-administrations-move-rescind-wotus>
- **Properly Implementing TSCA:** EPA has cleared a backlog of 700 new chemicals waiting permits for sale. By July, EPA had eliminated the backlog assessing new chemical risk within 90 days – allowing

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manufacturers to innovate and create jobs. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-eliminates-new-chemical-backlog-announces-improvements-new-chemical-safety-reviews>

- **Cleaning Up the Superfund Mess:** Of the 1,345 sites on EPA’s National Priority list, EPA has eliminated in whole or substantial part 7 since March. In 2016, EPA eliminated only 1.
 - EPA is on track to close in whole or in part 27 more in 2018.
 - EPA is on track to issue clean up decisions (RODs) on 14 of over \$50 million in clean up this year.
- **Draining the Swamp:** EPA staff is at the lowest levels since the Reagan presidency, as on boarded employees are now about 14,100.

APPROACHING COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINES

Full Title	Comment Period Deadline
Proposed- Mercury; Reporting Requirements for Toxic Substances Control Act Mercury Inventory	01/11/2018
Proposed- Repeal of Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units	01/16/2018
Proposed- Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision to References for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector to Incorporate Latest Edition of Certain Industry, Consensus-based Standards	01/25/2018
Proposed- Responses to Certain State Designation Recommendations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	02/05/2018
Proposed- Withdrawal of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to California: Lead, Chlorodibromomethane, and Dichlorobromomethane	02/09/2018
ANPRM- State Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Existing Electric Utility Generating Units	02/26/2018

<https://www.regulations.gov/searchResults?rpp=25&so=ASC&sb=commentDueDate&po=0&cp=O&a=EP&dct=PR>