

**To:** Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]  
**From:** EPA Press Office  
**Sent:** Tue 10/31/2017 9:19:00 PM  
**Subject:** CBS: Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

## CBS NEWS

### Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

**NOTE: Patrick Traylor, a former energy industry lawyer hired by new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, said the settlements show that the Trump administration will enforce environmental laws "with prudence and with excellence." Traylor said the deals bring "two very well-respected companies" back into compliance with environmental laws. "Now they can continue their work of driving economic growth," he said.**

#### Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

CBS News

October 31, 2017

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/exxon-epa-settle-pollution-case/>

Exxon Mobil (XOM) settled air pollution violations with the Trump administration by paying a \$2.5 million civil penalty and promising to spend \$300 million on pollution-control technology at several plants along the Gulf Coast.

Federal officials said Tuesday that the settlement will prevent thousands of tons of future pollution, including cancer-causing benzene, from eight petrochemical plants in Texas and Louisiana.

Some environmentalists attacked the settlement as insufficient punishment for years of violations by the giant oil company, while others said it addressed excess burning or flaring of gas, a key pollution problem at Exxon plants.

The deal settles allegations that Exxon violated the federal Clean Air Act by releasing excess harmful pollution after modifying flaring systems at five plants in Texas and three in Louisiana. The allegations date back more than a decade.

Exxon said it will install and increase the efficiency of the flaring systems and monitor for benzene outside four of the plants.

The Justice Department and the state of Colorado announced a smaller settlement over pollution charges against Denver-based PDC Energy (PDCE). The company will spend about \$20 million to upgrade equipment and pay a \$2.5 million civil penalty to the federal government and Colorado. Up to \$1 million of the state's share can be forgiven if the company performs certain environmental projects.

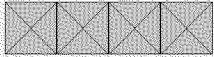
Patrick Traylor, a former energy industry lawyer hired by new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, said the settlements show that the Trump administration will enforce environmental laws "with prudence

and with excellence."

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