

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 10/25/2017 7:02:33 PM
Subject: EPA Releases Energy Independence Report

EPA Releases Energy Independence Report

“We can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment,” – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

WASHINGTON (October 25, 2017) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final report on how EPA, under Administrator Scott Pruitt’s leadership, is implementing President Trump’s Executive Order 13783 to curb regulatory burdens in order to promote energy production and economic growth – while protecting human health and the environment.

“EPA is committed to President Trump’s agenda,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment. At EPA, that means we are working to curb unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burdens that do not serve the American people – while continuing to partner with states, tribes and stakeholders to protect our air, land, and water.”

EPA released its final report in accordance with President Donald Trump’s Executive Order (EO) 13783. Notably, the report provides a look at how EPA is working to curb regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation while protecting human health and the environment. The report can be found online [here](#).

The report discusses nine EPA actions on energy-related regulations covered by EO 13783. It further includes the following four initiatives EPA plans in undertaking to implement this order:

1. **New Source Review reform (NSR)** – EPA is establishing an NSR Reform Task Force to review and simplify the NSR application and permit process.
2. **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) reform** – EPA plans to use the newly formed Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force to review administrative options to meaningfully improve air quality as it relates to ozone. EPA will also work to streamline the approval of state air pollution plans, and eliminate EPA’s backlog of state pollution plans.
3. **Robust Evaluations of the Employment Effects of EPA regulations** – Regulations impose high costs on American workers, particularly in the energy sector. Five environmental statutes state that EPA conduct continuing evaluations of potential shifts in employment that may result from implementation of these statutes. The Agency historically has not conducted these assessments. EPA intends to conduct these evaluations consistent with the statutes.
4. **Reestablishing the Smart Sectors Program** – EPA recently relaunched the Smart Sectors program to re-examine how it engages with American businesses to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, while protecting human health and the environment. (www.epa.gov/smartsectors).

Background

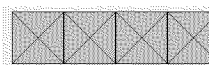
On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 13783 promoting clean and safe development of the United States' vast energy resources, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation.

To that end, Section 2 of EO 13783 required an immediate review of all agency actions that potentially burden the safe, efficient development of domestic energy resources. Section 2 required the heads of agencies to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources.

Section 2 also required agencies to submit a plan on how the agency will carry out the review. For those agencies that submitted a plan, the agency was required to submit a draft final report to OMB and EOP offices within 120 days (by July 26, 2017). The EOP offices provided recommendations to the agencies to ensure the final reports that reflect the policies laid out in EO 13783.

Final reports were to be finalized within 180 days (by September 24, 2017) unless the OMB Director, in consultation with the other EOP officials, extend the deadline.

To assist agencies in the development of the EO 13783 reports, OMB developed guidance on May 8, 2017 providing additional direction to agencies. OMB directed Agencies to provide a number of pieces of information in the agency final reports and to publish the final report on the agency website and in the Federal Register.



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To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 10/25/2017 3:01:02 PM
Subject: Top EPA Presidential Nominees Approved By Senate EPW Committee

Top EPA Presidential Nominees Approved By Senate EPW Committee

WASHINGTON (October 25, 2017) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presidential nominees to head the Agency's air, water, chemical and legal offices were approved by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW). The following nominations will soon be moved to the Senate chamber for a full vote:

[Michael Dourson](#), nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

[Matthew Leopold](#), nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of General Counsel at the EPA.

[David Ross](#), nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of Water at the EPA.

[Bill Wehrum](#), nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Regulation.

"I want to thank Chairman John Barrasso and Members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for granting our nominees a fair Hearing and approving their nominations," **said Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "These top leaders in their fields will bring positive change to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. We look forward to a full Senate vote on these highly-qualified leaders."

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To: Ex 6 - Personal Privacy

From: EPA Press Office

Sent: Tue 10/24/2017 12:30:12 PM

Subject: WE: Regulatory scheme killed by EPA's Pruitt cost taxpayers \$69 billion

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

Regulatory Scheme Killed By EPA's Pruitt Cost Taxpayers \$69 Billion

Washington Examiner

Paul Bedard

October 24, 2017

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/regulatory-scheme-killed-by-epas-pruitt-cost-taxpayers-69-billion/article/2638414>

A practice known as "sue and settle" used by the Environmental Protection Agency to enact controversial regulations cost taxpayers \$69 billion since 2005 and has an annual cost of \$26 billion, according to a new report.

The American Action Forum found that "sue and settle," killed this month by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, also dumped millions' hours of red tape on industries.

Pruitt ended the practice last week. During the Bush and Obama years, it was used by government activists and outside influence groups to force through new and costly regulations without the normal transparency required when rules are properly developed.

"Here's how it works," said Dan Bosch, the director of regulatory policy at AAF. "An interest group sues a federal agency alleging that the agency has not fulfilled its responsibility under the law. Rather than contest the lawsuit, the agency settles and enters into an agreement to initiate and/or expedite a rulemaking, complete with a legally binding deadline to promulgate."

He looked at the most expensive 23 regulations that went through the backdoor process and put a price-tag of \$68.9 billion on them. They also have \$26.5 billion in annual costs. And, he added, "16 of these rules imposed a paperwork burden of more than eight million hours."

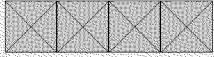
Businesses have cheered Pruitt's decision. When he made it, Pruitt said, "The days of regulation through litigation are over." He added, "We will no longer go behind closed doors and use consent decrees and settlement agreements to resolve lawsuits filed against the agency by special interest groups where doing so would circumvent the regulatory process set forth by Congress. Additionally, gone are the days of routinely paying tens of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees to these groups with which we swiftly settle."

The move was just the latest by the administration to target rules and regulations imposed by the Obama administration. Pruitt has been quick to put the brakes on EPA regulations he was handed and other agencies, notably the Interior Department, are also scrutinizing old rules.

Bosch said Pruitt's move will improve transparency.

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