

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 7/3/2017 7:12:19 PM
Subject: Pruitt's order to stop 'sue and settle' agreements not written down, EPA says

By Alex Guillén

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EPA today said Administrator Scott Pruitt's "directive" for the agency to stop the practice called "sue and settle" was only issued orally, not in writing.

The agency revealed that Pruitt's order was not written down in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from POLITICO. EPA did not say when Pruitt issued the oral directive.

Pruitt said at a May 24 conference in Washington that he had issued a directive to employees instructing them to avoid reaching settlements in lawsuits brought by environmental groups. He and many Republicans have long criticized the practice as a way for environmental groups to force new regulations. Green groups have noted they typically are suing over missed deadlines or other statutory requirements.

A group of Republican lawmakers last week asked for a briefing from EPA and the Justice Department about their plans to end "sue and settle" agreements.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/07/pruitts-order-to-stop-sue-and-settle-agreements-not-written-down-epa-says-090038>

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