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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: EPA watchdog to examine Pruitt's meeting with mining group

By Anthony Adragna

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The EPA's inspector general has agreed to establish a "factual record" about a meeting Administrator Scott Pruitt held with the National Mining Association that could be used to determine whether he violated anti-lobbying laws.

In its response released today, the inspector general cautioned that due to "numerous other pending projects" it is "not sure when we can begin this engagement." The letter said the inspector general's findings would be used by the Government Accountability Office in its own probe into Pruitt's actions.

House Energy and Commerce ranking member Frank Pallone made the request to EPA's inspector general in a late September letter. That came after POLITICO first reported NMA would support pulling out of the Paris climate agreement after meeting with Pruitt personally.

What's next: The inspector general's "factual record" will be used by the GAO in its own probe into Pruitt's actions, though it's unclear when the IG can begin its work.

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