

**To:** Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]  
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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### EPA Head Addresses Energy Issues

Anna Wolfe  
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<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2017/10/13/epa-water-energy-mississippi/757533001/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Mississippi Thursday to discuss proposed changes to the Waters of the United States rule, just days after announcing the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

The water rule sought to control pollution under the Clean Water Act of 1972 and had extended the federal government's authority over small waterways. Republicans and industry groups argue that it required costly and unnecessary permitting. The rule was also the subject of litigation.

Pruitt said he's meeting with government agencies and stakeholders across the country to get input on how to best craft the new definition of U.S. waters. The definition implemented in 2015, Pruitt argues, "has created substantial confusion."

"The whole focus that they said at the time was 'we're doing this to ensure certainty.' If that was their certainty, they failed miserably. Because truly, land use positions, jurisdictional determination, about where federal jurisdiction begins and ends, has never been more confusing."

Gov. Phil Bryant was among many governors who initiated a challenge to the Waters of the United States rule.

"Regulatory uncertainty has been the greatest impediment to economic growth over the last several years, and it's not just in the energy and environmental space. It's in finance. It's in health care. It's across a full spectrum of agency actions in Washington D.C.," Pruitt told The Clarion-Ledger. "But this WOTUS rule is one that I believe of the greatest example of uncertainty that was created because people literally quit using their land or they were concerned about using the land because of the potential for fines and penalties."

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