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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Court rejects bid to lift EPA delay of chemical safety rule

By Alex Guillén

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The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit today declined a request from environmental groups and United Steelworkers to immediately reinstate a chemical safety rule that was put on hold by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Pruitt delayed the rule, known as the Risk Management Plan update or the Chemical Disaster Rule, through 2019, saying he needed time to review and potentially revise or repeal it.

In a short order today, a three-judge panel said only that the environmentalists and labor group "have not satisfied the stringent standards for a stay pending court review." However, the judges did put the case on a fast track and gave the parties until Sept. 13 to suggest an expedited briefing schedule.

The order was issued by Judges Brett Kavanaugh, a George W. Bush appointee, and Cornelia Pillard and Robert Wilkins, both Barack Obama appointees.

The rule, written in the wake of several high-profile deadly explosions at chemical and fertilizer facilities, set tighter requirements for safety and reporting.

WHAT'S NEXT: Although the case was placed on a fast track, the suit may not see oral arguments until late this year or 2018.

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