

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 11:18:00 PM
Subject: Pruitt delays next step in implementing 2015 ozone standard

By Alex Guillén

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EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is delaying a deadline for deciding which areas of the U.S. do not meet the 2015 ozone standard, saying "there is insufficient information" to act at this time.

In [letters to governors](#) sent today, Pruitt says he needs the extra year to "consider completely" the states' suggestions "and to rely fully on the most recent air quality data." Determining which areas do not comply with the new standard is the first step toward requiring states to form plans to reduce ozone levels.

June 9 had been the target date for EPA to publish state proposals and take public comment, with a final decision coming by Oct. 1 of this year, according to a February 2016 [memo](#) from EPA.

Pruitt said he is also reviewing "a host of complex issues" regarding the standard, including background ozone, international sources and "exceptional events" like wildfires or volcanic eruptions that can spike ozone levels. The letter says Pruitt has also created an Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force "to develop additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone standard."

EPA has paused legal challenges to the standard while it reviews the rule requiring states to limit ozone to 70 parts per billion. It is not yet clear whether Pruitt will seek to repeal it and return to the 2008 standard of 75 ppb.

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