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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Pruitt says EPA formed task force to revamp new source review permitting

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EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said today he has formed a task force to explore potential reforms to the agency's New Source Review permitting program, which is meant to prevent power plants and other emitters from making major equipment changes that could increase emissions.

Speaking at the Concordia Annual Summit in New York, Pruitt said EPA's NSR permitting program has chilled industry investments on upgrades to their facilities over concerns about permitting-related burdens.

"That's really a disincentive to achieving good environmental outcomes," Pruitt said. "And so we're engaged in an NSR task force to find out how do we provide certainty there, how do we provide encouragement and incentive to companies to spend literally billions of dollars to achieve good environmental outcomes in the air quality space, but also give them certainty long-term that they're not going to lose their permit to operate."

Pruitt did not elaborate on the task force's membership, agenda or timeline.

The Energy Department's August electric grid study recommended considering NSR reforms at EPA. But as POLITICO [reported](#), several attempts to change the permitting program under George W. Bush were largely struck down by the courts.

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