

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
**Sent:** Wed 9/13/2017 7:37:54 PM  
**Subject:** EPA delays parts of power plant toxic discharge rule

By Alex Guillén

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EPA has finalized a [rule](#) delaying by two years the key compliance dates for a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams while it reconsiders those standards.

The delay provides "relief from the existing regulatory deadlines while the agency revisits some of the rule's requirements," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

Following industry requests, EPA specifically is delaying deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity. EPA estimates the two-year delay of those requirements will provide annualized utility cost savings between \$27.5 million and \$36.8 million.

The agency said it will not revisit new standards for other types of waste streams — including fly ash transport water, flue gas mercury control wastewater and gasification wastewater — and will leave deadlines associated with those streams in place.

The delay will take effect two weeks after it is published in the Federal Register, and is open to court challenges.

The Obama administration said the overall rule, known as effluent limitations guidelines or ELGs, ultimately would curb 1.4 billion pounds of aluminum, lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic metals from entering waterways via discharge streams each year.

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