

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: Pruitt says climate study doesn't change his rollback plans

By Emily Holden

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EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said a U.S. government report showing human activity is the main cause of climate change will not affect his decision to withdraw the Clean Power Plan, according to an [interview](#) with USA Today.

Pruitt proposed rolling back President Barack Obama's standards for power plants last month and said his agency is reconsidering the extent of its authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

"We're taking the very necessary step to evaluate our authority under the Clean Air Act and we'll take steps that are required to issue a subsequent rule. That's our focus," Pruitt told USA Today. "Does this report have any bearing on that? No it doesn't. It doesn't impact the withdrawal and it doesn't impact the replacement."

EPA is expected to release an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking weighing agency authority and considering a replacement that would allow states to set coal plant efficiency standards, rather than spurring them to shift toward more natural gas and renewable power.

Pruitt has questioned how much humans contribute to rising temperatures, arguing it can't be measured with precision and might not pose the risks most climate scientists expect. The National Climate Assessment, compiled by 13 agencies and reviewed by the National Academies, [contradicts him](#), finding that human activity is "extremely likely" to be the dominant cause of climate change that is already intensifying extreme weather.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA is taking comment on its proposed Clean Power Plan withdrawal through Jan. 16.

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