

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
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**Subject:** First Move: EPA Not Holding Nose on Animal Waste • Zinke Deputy On Regs • ExxonMobil's Chemical Offer

What you need to know to start your day.

## EPA Not Holding Nose on Animal Waste • Zinke Deputy On Regs • ExxonMobil's Chemical Offer

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Cows, pigs, chickens, and other farm animals generate lots of waste—so much, in fact, that it can greatly befoul air quality. Now the EPA wants to help farmers deal with the related paperwork.

The agency [has put out](#) materials it hopes can guide farmers through complying with a deadline next month to start reporting releases of hazardous air emissions from animal waste that are over the allowed limits in federal law, [Abby Smith](#) reports.

Hogs on a farm in Elma, Iowa.  
Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images

Farmers say they need all the help they can get on something so technical.

“The average farmer isn’t a chemical engineer. There’s going to be a tremendous learning curve,” says Michael Formica, assistant vice president of domestic policy and counsel for the National Pork Producers Council.

**Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke** has often vowed to streamline regulations governing energy development on federal lands. One of his newest point people on the issue says he’s looking at a variety of changes to bring it about.

The changes that David Bernhardt, Interior’s [deputy secretary](#), is contemplating are intended to shorten the time and trouble for everyone involved in the approval process for drilling and mining. That audience includes the Interior staff consumed with sizing up the litany of proposals to meet President Trump’s goal of expanded U.S. energy production.

Bernhardt, a longtime natural resource attorney, knows that Interior risks losing a lot of court cases when environmentalists, states, and others sue the feds over violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. He tells [Alan Kovski](#), who’s writing about his interview with Bernhardt, that he thinks he’s helping

his agency succeed at its efforts to be careful.

“I am pretty confident that our track record will be as good, if not better, than our predecessor’s track record,” Bernhardt says.

**Exxon Mobil is urging** the EPA to work with it and other chemical manufacturers, along with other industries, to learn how—and at what levels—people are exposed to chemicals.

The agency, when it reviews chemicals’ risks, traditionally has been starved of information on people’s exposures to chemicals. But an amended chemicals law now puts a premium on the agency having that kind of data as it weighs regulations to restrict chemical uses, [Pat Rizzuto](#) explains in a story out later this morning.

Without good exposure data, the agency makes assumptions about the extent to which people are exposed. Whether subsequent regulations are too restrictive—limiting chemical sales and use—or too lax—which could put people at risk—often hinges on debates over these assumptions.

### **Other Stories We’re Covering**

- [Rebecca Kern](#) and Bloomberg News reporters are expected to sit down today for an interview with FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee. They will ask how his agency plans to address all of the comments about the Energy Department’s [grid proposal](#) in a relatively short time.
- State solid waste management officials are wrapping up a meeting in Arlington, Va., and the EPA will discuss how to assess urban sites contaminated with lead. [Sylvia Carignan](#) is covering.
- Murray Energy Corp.’s CEO [will have](#) to tell miners that they can go to federal regulators about safety conditions without first notifying management, a mine regulatory panel says.
- Reducing byproduct fish and other creatures caught during commercial fishing for a different species is a focus of a U.N. wildlife summit wrapping up in Manila. [Adam Allington](#) is tracking.
- One of Scott Pruitt’s loyal Senate allies [wants](#) to stop a vote on a Democratic FERC member to try to win floor votes on EPA nominees who face Democrats’ opposition.

### **Quote of the Day**

“No one entity has all the information. We really need to work together.”  
—Rosemary Zaleski, who heads the chemical exposure division at Exxon Biomedical Sciences Inc., discussing the company’s desire to help the EPA on chemical risks.

### **Today’s Events**

- **9:30 a.m. • Water** • A House infrastructure committee’s water resources panel holds webcasted roundtable in Miami on improving ports, dams, and other water-related infrastructure. David Schultz is monitoring.
- **3 p.m. • Climate Change** • George Washington University hosts “climathon” seeking technology-based solutions on addressing climate change.
- **4 p.m. • Alaska** • Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy holds webinar on state’s climate conditions.
- **All Day • Women’s Convention** • NRDC Action Fund and other groups sponsor convention in Detroit addressing how women are affected by, and can change policies on, drinking water safety, as well as other issues.

### **Around the Web**

- A new video game promotes attacks on oil pipelines, the game’s critics say, demanding that the university whose professor developed it pull the plug.
- People who study wildfires say new thinking about them—such as regarding them as inevitable natural disasters comparable to earthquakes—will help with preparedness.
- Energy alliance launches initiative to halve transportation energy use by 2050.
- Maryland’s water quality monitoring data indicates the best year on record since 2012.
- Democratic senators ask EPA: Show us the math that led you to propose rescinding the Clean Power Plan.

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