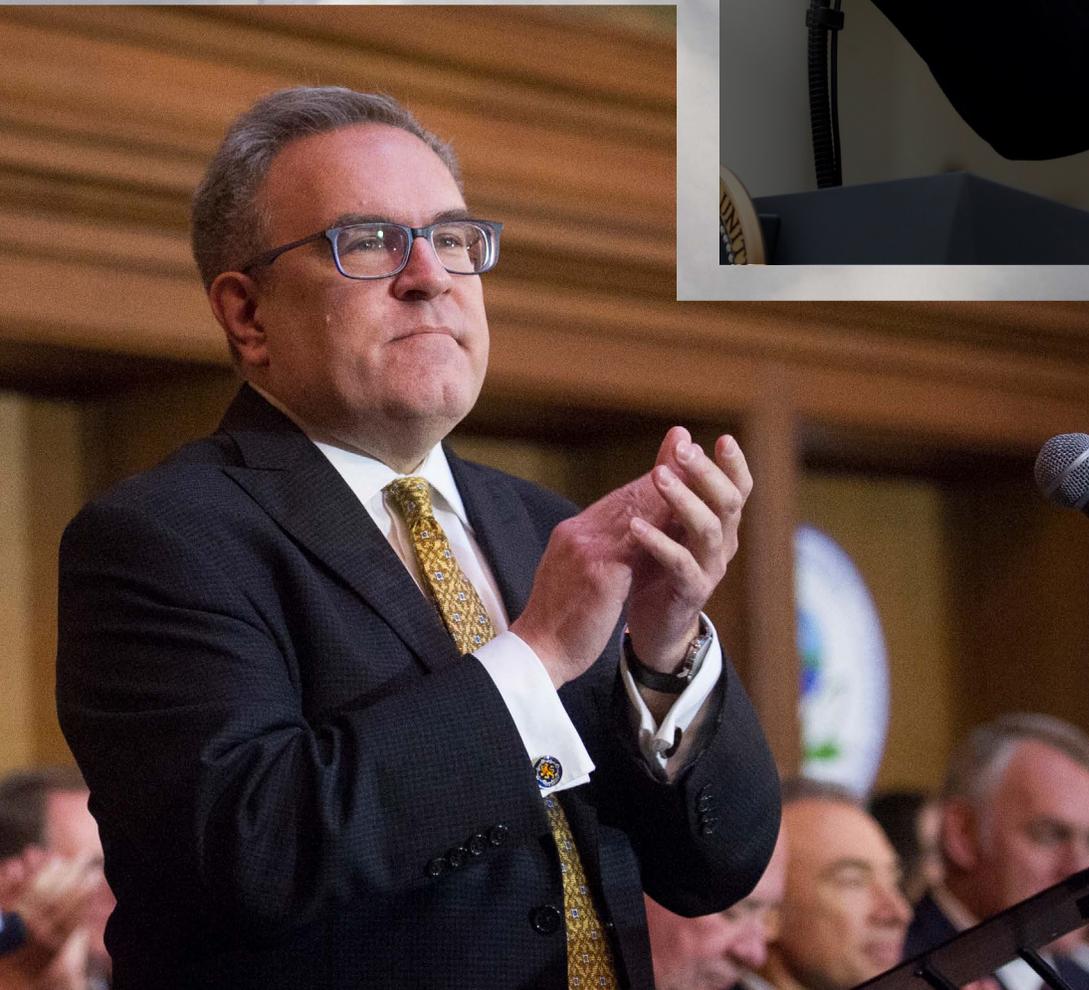




Marching Backwards:

How Andrew Wheeler and Donald Trump are Endangering our Families' Health by Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards



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Marching Backwards at EPA



Wheeler for decades has used his experience to undermine EPA and weaken some of its most critical health protections.

The anniversary of President Trump's inauguration marks two years of brazen attacks on America's fundamental public health and environmental protections. With industry allies now at the highest ranks of government, the administration has unleashed polluters to roll back environmental safeguards—putting at risk our children, our families and our communities.

The first round of these attacks was led by scandal-plagued EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who sought to reverse hard-won progress on clean air and water, and limits on climate pollution.

After Pruitt was forced from office, his deputy Andrew Wheeler was tapped as Acting Administrator. Wheeler's tenure has been equally disastrous for America's health and well-being—and now President Trump has nominated him to serve as the next Administrator.

A former coal lobbyist and industry ally, Wheeler has used his experience to undermine EPA's mission and weaken some of its most critical health protections. The Wheeler agenda is fully in line with industries who want to avoid accountability for putting the health and lives of millions of Americans at risk.

These threats are grave and growing. A recent proposal would undermine the foundation of limits on toxic mercury, which damages the brains of young children and newborns. Other priorities target some of America's greatest achievements in securing cleaner air, cleaner water and healthier communities.

And as scientists, businesses and communities sound the alarm that our planet's climate is in deep crisis, the administration has doubled down on its denial of climate change, putting our country's health and economy at risk, and endangering our children and grandchildren.

Marching Backwards: How Andrew Wheeler and Donald Trump are Endangering our Families' Health by Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards, provides a guided tour of critical failures of the Trump administration's EPA under Scott Pruitt and Andrew Wheeler. As the Senate prepares to decide on Andrew Wheeler's nomination, this report is a stark reminder of the stakes for America's children and families.

Climate and Clean Air

In the face of growing dangers from climate change, Wheeler under the direction of President Trump is EPA moving backwards, weakening and dismantling safeguards that protect our health. Wheeler is rolling back limits that protect against the largest sources of climate pollution including cars, power plants, and oil and gas production. At the same time, he is undermining safeguards against toxic and smog-forming air pollution.

Clean Power Plan: Stalling Climate Progress

The Threat: Power plants are [a major source of carbon pollution](#) that drives climate change.



In 2015, President Obama unveiled a Clean Power Plan to phase-in limits on carbon pollution from power plants, gradually reducing this pollution to 32% below 2005 levels once the policy was fully implemented.

EPA's own analysis found that the Clean Power Plan would spur clean energy growth across the country—reducing pollution and helping prevent thousands of premature deaths.

Wheeler fights safeguards: In 2018, Wheeler proposed to [eliminate](#) the Clean Power Plan and instead recommended a sham replacement that the [EPA's own numbers](#) show would result in as many as 1,600 more [premature deaths](#) as compared to the Clean Power Plan.



Following the Polluters' Agenda: Polluting industries have been [pressing the EPA to undermine the Clean Power Plan](#) since before it was released. Coal suppliers Peabody Energy and Murray Energy are just two of the coal-sector interests that have sued in court to block this safeguard.



Carbon Pollution Standards for New Power Plants: Weakening Established Protections

The Threat: Power plants are America's largest stationary source of carbon pollution. One new coal-fired power plant can emit several million tons of carbon pollution, every year, over a decades-long lifespan.



Wheeler fights safeguards: Current standards limit carbon pollution from new power plants to 1,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour. This standard assures that new plants will be built to achieve lower pollution levels that reflect the best available pollution control technologies.



In 2018, Wheeler proposed to roll back these standards, eliminating any requirement that new coal plants reduce their carbon pollution below business-as-usual levels. The proposal even questions whether carbon pollution from new power plants should be subject to any limits at all under the Clean Air Act.

Following the Polluters' Agenda: Major coal supplier Murray Energy and the National Mining Association are just two of the coal industry interests that have sued to oppose the existing standards.



Clean Car Standards: Rolling Back Successful Standards

The Threat: Transportation is now America's largest source of climate pollution, contributing greatly to the harmful health consequences of the climate crisis. Clean Car Standards, in effect since 2012, have already achieved significant progress in cleaning up climate pollution from passenger cars and trucks. Because these standards also drive fuel efficiency improvements, these win-win protections save Americans' hard-earned money at the gas pump.



Wheeler fights safeguards: In 2018, Wheeler proposed rolling back existing Clean Car Standards, a step that would yield billions of tons of more climate pollution and cost American families thousands of dollars more every year at the gas pump.



Rolling back Clean Car Standards could mean billions of tons of more pollution and cost American families thousands of dollars a year.

Following the Polluters' Agenda:



A recent [expose](#) underscored the role of the oil industry in advancing the rollback of these common sense standards—showing how oil industry heavy hitters like the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (a trade association for companies like Koch Industries, Phillips 66, and Marathon) were working behind the scenes to push this attack. On a conference call with investors in December, the chief executive of major oil refiner Marathon Petroleum was already counting the extra barrels of fuel that a rollback would mean for the industry: 350,000 to 400,000 barrels of more gasoline consumed per day.

Mercury and Air Toxics Standards: Attacking Limits on Toxic Pollution

The Threat:



In 2011, EPA finalized the first-ever national standards to reduce toxic air pollutants from coal-fired power plants. The power sector was the largest source of mercury and many other toxic pollutants in the U.S. when these standards were promulgated. These standards are now fully implemented; they have helped reduce mercury pollution from the power sector by over 80% while also reducing emissions of other toxics including acid gas and metals like arsenic, chromium and lead. EPA estimates that every year these standards prevent as many as 11,000 premature deaths.

Babies are especially vulnerable to mercury exposure because it can permanently damage developing brains and nervous systems—affecting their ability to think and learn.

Wheeler fights safeguards:



Wheeler has proposed to eliminate the legal foundation for these standards, needlessly placing these existing safeguards in legal jeopardy. This attack is opposed by power companies, labor unions, faith groups and children's advocates, which have raised concerns that this step will destabilize existing protections.

Following the Polluters' Agenda:



Murray Energy, America's largest coal mining company, and the Utility Air Regulatory Group, an industry trade association, have both sued to oppose the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards.



Oil and Gas Methane Pollution Safeguards: Accelerating Climate Change

The Threat: Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. [Methane pollution causes about 25% of man made global warming](#). Twelve million people live within a half mile of oil and gas facilities, which are among America's largest sources of methane pollution. In addition to exacerbating climate change, methane is also released alongside smog- and cancer-causing pollution from oil and gas facilities.



Wheeler fights safeguards: In September 2018, Wheeler proposed the first step in a two-part effort to [weaken requirements for testing and repairing methane leaks at oil and gas facilities and roll back other best practices](#), even though [the EPA's own analysis](#) found the existing standards are even more necessary—and more cost-effective—than expected.



Following the Polluters' Agenda: Oil and gas lobbying groups like the American Petroleum Institute have [pressed for weaker rules](#) on methane emissions.



Pollution from Landfills: Putting Off Long Overdue Safeguards

The Threat: Landfills are the nation's [third-largest source of methane pollution](#), which fuels climate change. They also discharge numerous hazardous air pollutants, including cancer-causing pollutants like benzene.



In 2016, EPA issued long-overdue emission guidelines for municipal solid waste landfills that would prevent an estimated 285,000 metric tons of methane pollution each year by 2025.

Wheeler fights safeguards: Under Andrew Wheeler, [EPA](#) [has](#) put off implementation of these safeguards, and recently [proposed to delay and push back the deadline for these already overdue protections](#).



Following the Polluters' Agenda: Some landfill operators and trade associations have pushed back against these common sense protections.



**Under Wheeler,
EPA is working to
prevent leaks of
smog- and cancer-
causing methane.**

Leaving Downwind States with More Pollution

The Threat: Upwind coal-fired power plants are substantial contributors to continuing smog challenges in downwind states. Maryland, for example, is burdened by pollution from coal-fired power plant units in five upwind states.



When inhaled, smog irritates our airways, increasing our risk of serious heart and lung diseases, and is especially harmful to Americans already suffering from asthma.

Wheeler fights safeguards: The “Good Neighbor” provision of the Clean Air Act calls on EPA to protect states from upwind pollution—yet Wheeler [denied](#) petitions from Delaware and Maryland asking for relief from pollution from upwind sources that contributes to their smog challenges.



Following the Polluters’ Agenda: The 36 upwind coal-fired power plant units have pollution controls installed, but aren’t running those units throughout the summer smog season. Wheeler’s decision lets these power plants off the hook, at the expense of the health of downwind residents.



Rejecting Expert Advice on Soot Air Quality Standards

The Threat: EPA is tasked with regularly updating national air quality standards for soot—also known as particulate matter—which increases risks of heart disease, lung cancer and asthma attacks.



Wheeler fights safeguards: In 2018, Wheeler [disbanded](#) EPA’s independent particulate matter review panel, which was comprised of 20 leading experts tasked with informing the agency’s assessment of current particulate matter air quality standards—leading to major [concerns](#) that the scientific integrity of these standards is at risk.



Following the Polluters’ Agenda: The National Association of Manufacturers, a major industry trade association, previously [sued](#) to oppose the current standards.



Smog and soot can increase the risk of asthma, lung disease, heart attacks and strokes—and impair brain development in children.

Undermining Scientific Review on Smog Air Quality Standards

The Threat: EPA is charged with regularly updating standards for smog, or ground-level ozone, which exacerbates asthma and the risk of heart attacks.



Wheeler fights safeguards: Wheeler has [proposed](#) to shortchange several important portions of the science-based review cycle for the current smog standard, among other changes to the review process—steps that harm the review’s “quality, credibility, and integrity,” [according](#) to leading scientists.



Following the Polluters’ Agenda: The American Petroleum Institute has long opposed stronger smog standards, and [urged EPA](#) to implement a “sweeping change” to its ozone review process.



Polluters and their Allies Running EPA

Under President Trump, Scott Pruitt, and now Andrew Wheeler, EPA is deeply influenced by polluters and lobbyists who have been working to undermine decades of environmental safeguards. Trump received [millions in campaign donations](#) from major polluters and promised to [break EPA into “little bits.”](#) Many of these polluters [bankrolled Pruitt’s rise](#) to national office.

When Pruitt resigned, Trump turned to Andrew Wheeler, a former lobbyist for one of America’s largest coal mining companies with [deep ties](#) to oil and gas, chemical manufacturers, and other polluters. Wheeler even served as president of the Washington Coal Club, a group of coal companies and their lobbyists.

Wheeler’s senior team is stocked with industry allies and people who reject mainstream science:

- **George Sugiyama, Deputy Associate Administrator:** Former Attorney for National Mining Association
- **Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator:** Former corporate lobbyist
- **Christian Palich, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former President, Ohio Coal Association
- **Michael Honeycutt, Science Advisory Board:** Disputes American Academy of Pediatrics and mainstream scientific opinion on air pollution and toxicology
- **David Fotouhi, Deputy General Counsel:** Former attorney for companies that violated Clean Air Act
- **Justin Schwab, Deputy General Counsel:** Former Attorney for multiple oil, gas, steel and metal companies
- **Erik Baptist, Senior Deputy Counsel:** Former Attorney for American Petroleum Institute
- **Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator:** Former Lobbyist, American Petroleum Institute and American Chemistry Council
- **Amanda Gunasekara, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former Lobbyist, National Association of Chemical Distributors
- **Nancy Beck, Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former Senior Director, American Chemistry Council
- **Susan Bodine, Assistant Administrator:** Former corporate lobbyist
- **Patrick Traylor, Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former Attorney, Koch Subsidiaries and other energy companies
- **Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former corporate lobbyist
- **Anna Wildeman, Deputy Assistant Administrator:** Former corporate lobbyist

Since becoming Acting Administrator in July 2018, Wheeler has met with groups advocating on behalf of public health and the environment only a handful of times. But he has filled his schedule with calls and meetings with the kinds of industry representatives and polluters he used to lobby for, like the American Petroleum Institute, the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, and the American Chemistry Council.

Indeed, **Wheeler has had four meetings and a phone call with the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers.** No other group comes close to getting this kind of attention from the head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chemicals



Because of the policies being pushed by the chemical industry and carried out by Andrew Wheeler, our families face a growing threat from chemicals that can kill or cause cancers, sicknesses and genetic damage.

Formaldehyde: Suppressing the Evidence

The Threat:



[Formaldehyde](#) can cause irritation to the nose and eyes and increased risk of asthma allergies, neurological effects and [cancers](#) like nasopharyngeal cancer and leukemia. Formaldehyde is breathed in through emissions from wood products, paints and varnishes, carpets and permanent press fabrics, auto exhaust, and cigarette smoke.

Wheeler fights safeguards: Wheeler and EPA's political leadership have been [suppressing](#)



[the agency's own scientific assessment](#) of the hazards of formaldehyde. As a Senate staffer in 2004, Wheeler participated in similar efforts to delay an earlier version of the formaldehyde assessment. He also lobbied for Celanese, a major manufacturer of formaldehyde.

Following the Polluters' Agenda: This highly toxic chemical is used by politically connected



companies, including Koch Industries. The American Chemistry Council [urged EPA](#) to adopt industry-funded research that would undermine the scientific research linking formaldehyde and leukemia. [David Dunlap](#), formerly Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Koch Industries, is now the political head of EPA's Office of Research and Development, the office responsible for assessing formaldehyde.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Blocking Science

The Threat: In humans, PFAS [have been linked](#) to increased cholesterol levels, low birth weights, effects on the immune system, thyroid hormone disruption and cancer. (In studies on exposed animals, some common PFAS accumulate in the bodies and have been connected to skeletal deformities, as well as harm to reproductive and developmental systems and the liver and kidneys.) PFAS can be found in food wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, and pizza boxes, meat and fish that ingested it, drinking water, household products, and firefighting foam. The facilities that make or use the chemicals are sources of environmental contamination.



Wheeler fights safeguards: The EPA and the White House sought to [block publication](#) by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of a health study showing that PFOAs endanger human health at a far lower level than EPA has previously called safe. (One Trump administration aide warned it would cause a “public relations nightmare.”)



Trichloroethylene (TCE): Ignoring Existing Threats

The Threat: TCE is a [highly toxic chemical](#) linked to many health effects including cancer, fetal heart damage, and toxicity to the immune system and kidneys. Most TCE is used to make other chemicals, but it is frequently found in commercial and consumer products like metal degreasers and spot cleaning agents.



Wheeler fights safeguards: In 2016 the EPA proposed to ban the use of TCE in spot cleaning agents used at dry cleaners and in metal degreasers. But in 2018 EPA shelved that ban and then went further by announcing that it would [ignore more than 12 million pounds of TCE](#) being released into the air, land, and water when evaluating its health risks, including risks to vulnerable populations like pregnant women and children.



Following the Polluters' Agenda: The [Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance](#), representing TCE makers, has repeatedly urged the EPA to slow down its regulatory efforts, while the American Chemistry Council has attacked the science underlying EPA efforts. Nancy Beck, who helps oversee EPA's toxic chemical unit, previously worked as an executive at the American Chemistry Council, one of the industry's main lobbying groups.



Methylene Chloride: Delaying a Life-Saving Ban

The Threat: Methylene chloride is [highly dangerous](#)—a chemical that can kill even after short exposure and that EPA has also classified as a likely carcinogen. It’s used in coating removers and paint strippers as well as automotive products, adhesives, and degreasers.



Wheeler fights safeguards: For more than a year, Wheeler’s predecessor Scott Pruitt ignored an EPA proposal to ban most uses of methylene chloride in paint and coating removal products. He finally promised action in May 2018 after meeting with families whose sons died from using methylene chloride-based paint strippers. After many months under Wheeler, EPA finally indicated it would take only limited action and ban consumer uses—merely following the lead of retailers who have [pulled methylene chloride containing paint and coating removers from their shelves](#). Wheeler won’t take the necessary steps to protect workers, who are at most risk.



Following the Polluters’ Agenda: When pressed on the need to take action, one of Wheeler’s senior aides, [Nancy Beck—a former senior director at the American Chemistry Council](#)—instead focused on whether methylene chloride victims were failing to follow the directions on the labels. “[Is it 1 percent?](#)” she asked.



Hobbling Enforcement

EPA plays a critical role in enforcing laws that protect public health and hold polluters accountable. But even though 3 in 4 Americans [want stronger enforcement](#) of federal environmental safeguards, EPA enforcement has been falling precipitously under Trump, Pruitt and Wheeler.

[Research](#) by the Environmental Data & Governance Initiative makes clear that EPA has dramatically pulled back on enforcement against polluters and wrongdoers.

Major civil enforcement actions dropped to their lowest level in a decade.

- The number of administrative fines of polluting companies dropped 54 percent.
- Federal civil judicial penalties dropped to their lowest level since 2006.
- Orders to polluters to pay for cleanups of their hazardous waste dropped 54 percent.
- Administrative compliance orders were down 42 percent.
- Consent decrees and court orders were down by 22 percent.

Criminal Enforcement has fallen precipitously

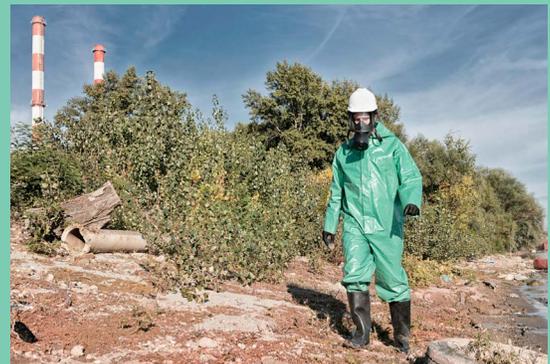
- Only 54 criminal settlements were reached in fiscal 2018, the lowest in many years.
- Cases initiated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act dropped 17 percent.
- Cases initiated under the Clean Air Act Stationary Source program dropped 52 percent.
- Cases initiated under the Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System dropped 36 percent.

Enforcement inspections are falling

- Enforcement inspections—the precursor to filing cases—are down 33 percent.
- Clean Air Act stationary inspections are down 35 percent from the average during the last decade.

Meanwhile, the Administration has been seeking to cut EPA enforcement resources further for a variety of programs, including:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| ● Science and Technology | -24% |
| ● Environmental Programs and Management | -19% |
| ● Environmental Justice | -100% |
| ● Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund | -32% |
| ● Hazardous Substance Superfund | -4% |



Threats to Land

Our nation's lands have too been used as a dumping ground for polluting industries looking to shed toxic wastes. Doing so fouls our soils, rivers and streams, threatening communities with dangerous chemicals, often unbeknownst to families and residents. EPA indicates that 156 million people, including 62 percent of all people of color in the United States, [live within three miles](#) of a Superfund, brownfield or solid and hazardous waste “corrective action” site.

Superfund

The Threat: More than 50 million Americans live within 3 miles of [more than 1,300 sites](#) contaminated with toxic waste that has been [dumped, left out in the open, or otherwise improperly managed](#). Living near these dangerous places has been linked to higher rates of cancer, birth defects, and rare diseases. Toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, arsenic and dioxin can leech into the soil and seep into plumbing systems and waterways. Winds can carry contaminated dust particles into nearby neighborhoods. Superfund cleanups help reduce severe threats to the health of families, restore job-producing productivity at contaminated properties, and preserve natural habitats.



Wheeler and Trump fight safeguards: President Trump and the EPA have Trump have sought to cut Superfund cleanup funding by 30 percent, including an 18 percent cut to emergency response funds. (These cuts would also shift more cleanup costs from polluters to taxpayers, by slashing funding by 37 percent for enforcement efforts to track down polluters and make them pay for cleaning up sites for which they are responsible.)



Following the Polluters' Agenda: President Trump's 2018 pick to oversee the Superfund cleanup program, Peter Wright, spent almost twenty years as a top lawyer at Dow Chemical Co., which last year merged with DuPont. His conflicts of interest are so deep that he would have to [recuse himself from decisions at the 170 Superfund sites](#)—13 percent of the national total—that Dow or DuPont are responsible for cleaning up.



Brownfields

The Threat: At [more than 450,000 brownfields sites](#), industrial or commercial development has been hampered by the risk of hazardous contamination. EPA brownfields funds pay for testing of soil, ground water, sediment, surface water and vapors—as well as cleanups that can restore nearby residential property values by up to 15 percent, boost job creation, and increase local tax revenues.



Wheeler and Trump fight safeguards: President Trump and the EPA have tried to cut brownfield restoration programs by 30 percent.

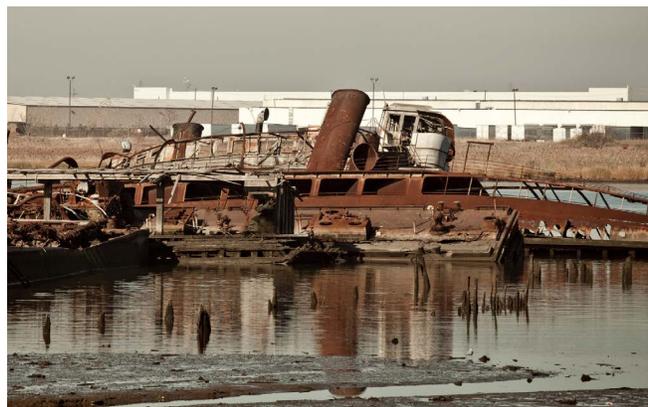


Leaking Underground Storage Tanks

The Threat: Across the country, thousands of underground storage tanks and accompanying pipes—many of them made from older, corroding steel—hold and carry a variety of fuels and chemicals. When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water and soil are fouled, community health is jeopardized, and economic development is crippled. [More than 65,000 underground tanks](#) are in need of monitoring and/or cleanup.



Wheeler and Trump fight safeguards: EPA support is essential to local efforts to monitor underground storage tanks, detect leaks of petroleum products, address the causes, repair any damage to soil or groundwater and hold polluters responsible or pay for cleanup if the responsible party can't be found or is no longer in business. But President Trump and the EPA have tried to eliminate EPA Prevention, Detection and Compliance Grants to pay for local cleanups, and to chop in half a trust fund that provides support for monitoring and cleanup assistance.



Thousands of underground tanks are leaking harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into our soil and drinking water.

Chemical Releases and Natural Disasters

The Threat: At least [134 million Americans](#) live in close proximity to facilities that store or use highly hazardous chemicals, and are therefore at risk of serious harm from a release of toxic or flammable materials. Meanwhile, as climate change helps fuel more and worse natural disasters, millions more Americans are growing vulnerable to their impacts and the subsequent fallout. Coastal flooding threatens nearly 40% of the US population, and rising sea levels will affect millions of homeowners. Moreover, major storms put infrastructure and industrial facilities at risk, potentially exposing communities to dangerous chemicals.



Wheeler and Trump fight safeguards: Trump and Wheeler continue to try to scrap or weaken a variety of safeguards designed to protect millions of vulnerable Americans from chemical releases and the impact of a natural disaster:



- **Weakening Chemical Disaster Rules:** In 2018, the EPA [moved to eliminate](#) chemical disaster safeguards adopted after a chemical explosion that killed 15 people at a Texas fertilizer plant (including a dozen first responders) in 2013. Undoing these safeguards would:
 - Exempt plant owners from releasing information on chemical hazards to local communities and how to respond in event of a disaster
 - End requirements that chemical plant owners keep up to date safety information
 - Eliminate training for plant operations supervisors
 - Eliminate requirements that chemical companies determine the root causes of explosions and spills
 - Allow the use of disaster investigation teams that don't include experts on the chemical processes involved

In 2018, *a federal judge ruled that the EPA's bizarre and dangerous effort to delay new disaster safety rules "makes a mockery" of federal laws governing federal chemical plant safety.*

- **Crippling independent investigations of chemical disasters & accidents:** EPA has also [worked to eliminate](#) the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, an independent agency that investigates chemical accidents at industrial facilities, how they occurred, and how to prevent them. Many investigators are quitting and reports on many incidents have not been introduced.

- **Undercutting state and local prevention and preparedness:** President Trump and the EPA have [urged cuts of more than \\$5 million](#) to programs that help prevent, prepare and respond to disasters stemming from chemicals and other dangerous materials.
- **Weaken Toxics Release Inventory and Right to Know programs:** President Trump and the EPA also [proposed to cut more than \\$6 million](#) from programs that require companies to let the public know what chemicals they are using, so that communities and localities can make informed decisions about the threats they face.
- The Trump Administration has pressed for nearly a billion dollars in cuts to Federal Emergency Management Administration programs and local grants that help protect communities from flooding and wildfires.
- The Trump Administration has been seeking to weaken the government's ability to predict weather, natural disasters and climate trends by cutting data collection and expert scientific analysis.

Following the Polluters' Agenda:



- **Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board:** A former chairman of the Board notes [that industry groups and their political supporters have opposed the Board's recommendations](#) following refinery accidents.
- **Information on Release of Toxic Substances:** The National Mining Association has worked to [eliminate or weaken the public's right to know](#) about toxic releases from mines.

Safeguards to protect Americans from chemical risks in the event of a natural disaster are in danger.

War on Science

Andrew Wheeler has continued Scott Pruitt's campaign to jettison and suppress scientific and public health expertise. Instead of upholding its legacy of science-based health protections under administrations of both parties, Trump's EPA has stripped climate change information from its website, censored scientific research, purged independent scientific reviewers of its work, and watched demoralized career scientists leave in droves.

- **Purging Scientists:** [Wheeler dismissed a panel of scientists](#) who advise EPA on soot air quality standards, [stacked another committee](#) with industry-friendly figures, and abandoned plans to create a separate panel to provide scientific advice on ozone dangers. After a purge of independent academic scientists from EPA's Science Advisory Board, the finalists he's considering to restock it include [industry supporters who belittle established science](#). Commenting on the agency's recent scientific reviews of major air quality safeguards, Paul Billings with the American Lung Association noted "I think they are trying to [rush through a process](#) that will provide a result that is driven by political science, not health science."
- **Censored Science:** In April 2018, EPA moved to [bar the use of scientific research](#) when underlying data from studies are not public. The ban would prohibit EPA scientists from considering countless life-saving studies, like those that revealed air pollution leads to premature death, or linked tobacco to lung cancer. EPA ignored the concerns of scientific experts, including those raised by its own Science Advisory Board, in putting forth the proposal which was [championed by polluting industries](#).
- **Brain Drain:** Since the Trump Administration began its attack on scientific integrity at EPA, [at least 260 career scientists have left EPA](#), and the agency's staff has shrunk 8 percent. "It's really awful to feel like you don't have any role to play, that there's not any interest in the work you're doing," said one career researcher. "My feeling was I could do better work to protect the environment outside the EPA."
- **Censoring Climate Change:** EPA's 56-page strategic plan [no longer even mentions the word "climate."](#) The current administration has also [stripped references to climate change from EPA's website](#) and purged much of its historical information and scientific explanations of climate change. "It's an embarrassment. It is a [ghost page](#)," said former EPA regional administrator Judith Enck.



Finding the ways that work

2019