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Former Civil Servants Release Practical Guide for Resisting Trump Proposals to Dismantle Public Protections

DENVER - The Trump Administration's assault on federal rules that protect the public is in full swing. President Trump may be having trouble getting Congress to adopt his agenda, but he has more control over federal agencies and he's using it to roll back health, environmental, consumer, workplace and other protections. In response, former federal employees today are issuing a guide to help Americans resist the Trump de-regulatory agenda through the federal public comment process and other forms of activism.

Developed by [Save EPA](#) - an all-volunteer, Denver-based group of former EPA employees - "[A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump De-Regulatory Agenda](#)" is a how-to manual for Americans who want to engage with and communicate their views to all federal agencies proposing to rescind, weaken or delay rules that protect the public. Modeled after the [Indivisible Guide](#) for holding Congress accountable, Save EPA's guide offers insights and advice for making agencies listen.

"We know that many Americans are deeply disturbed by the Administration's campaign to roll back rules that protect the health of our families, a clean environment, the safety of workers, and the fairness of our economy," said Joni Teter, a leader of the Save EPA group. "We want to help Americans sound the alarm about the dangerous and counterproductive actions that are being taken, in ways that can help make a difference."

Save EPA's guide:

- debunks standard claims for rolling back regulations
- provides basic information about how regulations are made
- offers advice about how to participate effectively in the rulemaking process
- suggests complementary tactics to be used outside the rulemaking process
- describes how to find out about deregulatory actions and provides links to organizations tracking those actions
- provides links to other helpful guides and materials

Its release comes on the heels of a [New York Times report](#) on Monday that the Trump Administration's effort to aggressively scale back government regulations is being conducted in large part out of public view and often by political appointees with deep industry ties and potential conflicts of interest. That article makes clear the imperative

for Americans to defend the standards and rules that have been put in place to protect all of us.

Several current rollback efforts focus on important environmental protection rules. Comment periods are now open or opening soon to reconsider and potentially reverse or withdraw:

- an EPA rule to cut climate-changing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector;
- an EPA/Department of the Army wetlands protection rule known as the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule; and
- the Obama Administration’s proposal to veto Clean Water Act permits for Alaska’s Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay region.

See information below on how and when to comment on these three rules.

In addition, EPA is expected soon to propose rescinding, repealing or revising the Clean Power Plan rule to cut climate-changing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants.

Rules are being targeted for rollback across the federal government, including rules for protecting retirement savings from unscrupulous investment advisors, assuring workers fair compensation for overtime work, and providing consumers with nutrition information about the food they purchase. Save EPA invites other groups to use and promote this guide widely to oppose the rollback of public protections by EPA and other agencies across the federal government.

The guide is available on the Save EPA web site at <http://www.saveepaalums.info>.

For more information about the guide, send an email to saveepa.guide@gmail.com to contact Joni Teter, Nancy Ketcham-Colwill, Jim Ketcham-Colwill and Ellen Kurlansky.

Information for commenting on three environmental rules

Proposed 2-year stay and reconsideration of methane emissions standards for oil and gas sector - The public comment period is ongoing; comments must be received on or before 11:59 pm August 9. To comment, search for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0505 on the federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov/> . The proposal was signed June 16. EPA web link: <https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/actions-and-notices-about-oil-and-natural-gas>

Waters of the U.S. rule proposed rescission - A 30-day comment period will begin soon when the rule, signed June 27, 2017, is published in the Federal Register. To comment, search for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203, on the federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. EPA web link: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule>.

Withdrawal of proposed Pebble Mine determination - EPA is proposing to withdraw a [July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404\(c\) Proposed Determination](#) that would have imposed restrictions on the discharge of dredged or fill material from the potential "Pebble Mine" in Alaska’s Bristol Bay watershed. A 90-day comment period will begin soon when the withdrawal notice is published in the Federal Register. Comments can be

emailed to ow-docket@epa.gov (reference docket number EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369 in the email subject line). EPA link: <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay/epas-proposal-withdraw-clean-water-act-restrictions-pebble-mine>