

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

### **Statement of Priorities**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the laws enacted by Congress and signed by the President to protect human health and the environment. Under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Administrator Lee Zeldin, the EPA is implementing its statutory mandates and simultaneously Powering the Great American Comeback. The Powering the Great American Comeback initiative balances environmental protection with economic growth to energize the American economy while protecting all Americans from risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work. Administrator Zeldin has identified and established five pillars to achieve this initiative, and EPA's 2026 Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions focuses on carrying out these five pillars.

#### **Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American**

Every American should have access to clean air, land, and water. EPA will continue to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment by building upon the progress made in President Trump's first administration when EPA advanced conservation, reduced toxic emissions in the air and water, and cleaned up hazardous land sites while fostering economic growth for families nationwide.

#### **Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance**

Pursuing energy independence and dominance is paramount to ceasing our nation's reliance on energy sources from adversaries. Importantly, energy independence lowers fuel costs for hardworking American families, farmers, and small businesses while producing and developing the cleanest energy on the planet. To further this goal, the EPA Administrator has already announced targeted efforts to bolster American energy dominance and provide affordable energy to American families. Throughout 2026, EPA will expand on these efforts to continue to meet the nation's growing electric demand.

#### **Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership**

Building upon successes in the President Trump's previous term, EPA will strengthen relationships with its partners at State and Federal levels to ensure critical infrastructure, mineral, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and energy projects are quickly approved. Streamlining permitting processes while partnering with businesses to follow the necessary statutory requirements is essential to boosting

industrial competitiveness. Through the actions in this regulatory agenda, EPA will continue to cooperate with our State, Tribal, and local counterparts to promote cooperative federalism, protect ecosystem diversity and economic productivity.

#### **Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Capital of the World**

The United States continues to advance as an AI leader. EPA will bolster this advancement by ensuring data centers and related facilities necessary for the AI revolution can be powered and operated with American-made energy by removing barriers to energy development, production, and delivery. EPA plans to further support AI development by encouraging responsible, streamlined permitting for these critical projects that are essential to our nation's security.

#### **Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs**

EPA is adding to efforts to bring back American auto jobs and invest in domestic manufacturing to revitalize the American auto industry. EPA is developing smart, durable regulations that will support the American auto industry while providing protection to our air, water, and land. In the coming year, the EPA will use statutory authorities delegated to it by Congress to deliver smart and effective regulations that will allow for American workers to lead a great comeback of the auto industry.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF EPA'S 2026 REGULATORY PLAN**

EPA's nearly fifty-five years of protecting human health and the environment demonstrates our nation's commitment to reducing pollution that can threaten the air we breathe, the water we use, and the communities we live in. This Regulatory Plan contains information on some of EPA's most important upcoming regulatory and deregulatory actions, including the actions aimed at unleashing American energy dominance, lowering the cost of living for American families, and advancing cooperative federalism. As always, the EPA's Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions contains information on a broader spectrum of the EPA's upcoming actions, but we highlight priority actions here that are consistent with the EPA's primary statutory requirements.

#### **Improving Air Quality**

As part of its mission to protect human health and the environment, the EPA is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's air. EPA's work to control emissions of air pollutants is critical to continued progress

in reducing public health risks and improving the quality of the environment. The Agency will continue to deploy existing regulatory tools where statutorily mandated, appropriate, and warranted. Using the Clean Air Act (CAA), the EPA will work with States and tribes to accurately measure air quality and ensure that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet air quality standards. The EPA will continue to develop standards, as directed by the CAA, for both mobile and stationary sources, to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, toxics, and other pollutants.

#### *Reconsideration of Criteria Pollutant Standards for Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles*

Consistent with Administrator Zeldin's March 12, 2025, announcement of 31 deregulatory actions to Power the Great American Comeback, the EPA will initiate a rulemaking to reconsider the criteria pollutants standards established in the April 2024 multi-pollutant standards rule for Model Years 2027 and later for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles.

#### *Amendments to the Model Year 2027 and Later Heavy-Duty Highway Engine Criteria Pollutant Program*

EPA also will initiate a rulemaking to reevaluate the criteria pollutant standards established in the January 2023 final rule titled Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards.

#### *Carbon Pollution Standards Repeal*

In April 2024, the EPA issued the Carbon Pollution Standards (CPS), which limited greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, under Clean Air Act section 111. The CPS directed states to set standards of performance for existing fossil fuel-fired steam generating power plants and further tightened New Source Performance Standards that were first issued in 2015. Consistent with Executive Order 14154, "Unleashing American Energy"; Executive Order 14241, "Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Deregulatory Initiative"; and Executive Order 14261, "Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241," the EPA is revisiting these standards. On June 11, 2025, the EPA

proposed to repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants promulgated under Clean Air Act section 111.

#### *Revision to “Begin Actual Construction” in the New Source Review Preconstruction Permitting Program*

The EPA is proposing revisions to its New Source Review (NSR) preconstruction permitting regulations to clarify which on-site construction activities an owner or operator may lawfully undertake before obtaining an NSR preconstruction air permit. These changes aim to provide greater flexibility and clarity on which construction activities owners and operators can engage in prior to obtaining an NSR permit, while still protecting public health and welfare through the NSR preconstruction permitting requirements. The revisions will be applicable to new major stationary sources and major modifications at existing major stationary sources of air pollution subject to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program or the Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR) program.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Reconsideration*

The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) requires reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) data and other relevant information from certain large GHG emission sources, fuel and industrial gas suppliers, and CO<sub>2</sub> injection sites in the U.S. A total of 47 industrial sectors are required to report under the GHGRP, including more than 8,000 facilities. On September 12, 2025, the EPA proposed a rule to remove the obligations of the GHGRP for most source categories, including the distribution segment of the petroleum and natural gas systems source category (Subpart W). The EPA also proposed to suspend reporting obligations for the remaining subpart W segments until 2034.

#### **Providing Clean and Safe Water for Every American**

The Nation’s water resources are the lifeblood of our communities, supporting our health, economy, and way of life. Clean and safe water is a vital resource that is essential to the protection of human health.

The EPA is committed to ensuring clean and safe water for all. Since the enactment of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the EPA and its State, local and Tribal partners have made significant progress toward improving the quality of our waters and ensuring a safe drinking water

supply. Along with the full set of water actions listed in the regulatory agenda, the regulatory initiatives highlighted below will help ensure that this important progress continues.

#### *Updated Definition of “Waters of the United States”*

The EPA and the Department of the Army are undertaking a rulemaking to revise key topics of the “waters of the United States” definition following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 598 U.S. 651 (2023), including “continuous surface connection,” “relatively permanent,” and jurisdictional versus non-jurisdictional ditches. These revisions focus on clarity, simplicity, and improvements that will stand the test of time. This action will streamline implementation of Clean Water Act programs by aligning the definition of waters of the United States with *Sackett*, which significantly narrowed the definition under the Clean Water Act.

#### *Steam Electric Effluent Limitations Guideline Reconsideration Rule*

To avert unwarranted power plant retirement decisions and maintain abundant and affordable electricity supply in a time of rising demand, the EPA is also considering revising some of the existing requirements in the effluent limitation guidelines and standards for the Steam Electric Generating Point Source Category promulgated in 2024. The EPA intends that this rulemaking would potentially revise the limitations in the subcategory for discharges of unmanaged combustion residual leachate. The rulemaking may also seek to revise the technology basis for the 2024 rule’s zero-discharge limitations and standards, as well as re-evaluate existing compliance pathways. This rule will streamline implementation by setting a national-level best available technology economically achievable, ensuring fair and transparent competition across the country.

#### *Clean Water Act Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for PFAS Manufacturers Under the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers Point Source Category*

As announced in the Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15, the EPA is revising the existing Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances discharges from facilities manufacturing PFAS. This rule will streamline implementation by setting a national-level best available technology economically achievable, ensuring fair and transparent competition across the country.

### *Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule*

The EPA is undertaking a rulemaking to clarify implementation challenges and regulatory uncertainty associated with the 2023 Rule, including the scope of certification. This action will streamline implementation of Section 401 by increasing transparency, efficiency, and predictability for co-regulators and the regulated community.

### *Rescission of Regulatory Determinations and Removal of Related Provisions for Four PFAS Substances (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS)*

The EPA intends to propose to rescind its regulatory determinations to regulate four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX), and the mixture of these three PFAS plus perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) under the SDWA. The EPA also intends to propose to rescind all associated regulatory provisions associated with the Final PFAS NPDWR currently codified in 40 CFR part 141 and 142 exclusive to these PFAS that were promulgated pursuant to the regulatory determinations that the EPA is now proposing to rescind. If finalized, this action would streamline the 2024 PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation by removing implementation complexity and would ensure that the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation correctly follow the legal process laid out in the SDWA.

### **Revitalizing Land and Preventing Contamination for Every American**

The EPA works to improve the health and livelihood of all Americans by cleaning up and returning land to productive use, preventing contamination, and responding to emergencies. The EPA collaborates with other Federal agencies, industry, States, Tribes, and local communities to enhance the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods. The EPA recognizes the progress made in cleaning up and returning land to productive use, preventing contamination, and responding to emergencies, and works to incorporate new technologies and approaches that allow EPA to more efficiently and effectively provide for an environmentally sustainable future.

### *Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act: Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention*

EPA is undertaking a rulemaking to amend the existing Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations by making several proposed changes to the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) rule. The proposed amendments seek to improve chemical process safety by avoiding duplicative requirements, realigning RMP requirements with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Process Safety Management (PSM) requirements, and eliminating unnecessary burdens placed on facilities where there is not specific data available to show that the current RMP standards would reduce or have reduced the number of accidental releases. The EPA is proposing to revise the current RMP regulations to address the administrations priorities in Executive Order 14154 “Unleashing American Energy” and Executive Order 14148 “Initial Recission of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions” by streamlining implementation and focusing on avoiding duplicative requirements, reducing unnecessary burden, and establishing regulatory consistency.

*Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities: Legacy/CCRMU Amendments*

EPA is proposing revisions to requirements finalized under the 2024 Legacy Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Surface Impoundments and CCR Management Units Rule, which impacted active CCR facilities and inactive CCR facilities with legacy CCR surface impoundments. This proposed rule is seeking to address needed corrections in the 2024 Rule and is considering additional methods of closure, alternative groundwater monitoring compliance points, and other responsible changes to the Federal CCR rules.

**Ensuring Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment**

EPA is responsible for ensuring the safety of chemicals and pesticides to protect human health and the environment. EPA gathers and assesses information about the risks associated with chemicals and pesticides and acts to appropriately address risks consistent with statutory obligations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

Among its duties under these statutes, EPA works to address the unreasonable risk of existing chemical substances under TSCA. Upon determining that an existing chemical presents unreasonable risks of injury to health or the environment under its conditions of use, the Agency must initiate an action to apply, by rule, requirements under TSCA to the extent necessary to eliminate the unreasonable risks. EPA may consider a range of risk management options under TSCA, including labeling, recordkeeping or notice requirements, actions to reduce human exposures or environmental releases, or a ban of the chemical or of certain uses of the chemical.

*Updating Procedures for Evaluating the Risks Existing Chemical Substances under TSCA to Increase Efficiency and Follow the Law*

EPA promulgated changes to the procedures for chemical risk evaluations under section 6(b) of TSCA in May 2024. The Agency recently completed a review of the 2024 final rule and related public comments and concerns, including those from other Federal agencies, and initiated further rulemaking to reexamine multiple aspects of this rule for consistency with the law and Administration policy. On September 23, 2025, EPA published a proposed rule, Procedures for Chemical Risk Evaluation Under TSCA, to reflect its proposed path forward to ensure a timely review of chemicals while bolstering its commitment to safeguard public health and the environment. This path forward must ensure the Agency can efficiently and effectively protect human health and the environment and follow the law while, among other things, preserving the Agency's discretion under TSCA to determine: the conditions of use and exposure routes and pathways to be considered in a risk evaluation; how it will take occupational exposure controls into account when conducting risk evaluations and making risk determinations; and, the basis upon which it will issue risk determinations.

*Addressing the Unreasonable Risks of Existing Chemical Substances under TSCA*

EPA plans to promulgate several final risk management regulations and to seek public comment on proposed rules to address the unreasonable risks of formaldehyde and the legacy uses and associated disposal of Asbestos. In addition, EPA has initiated rulemaking efforts to address implementation

concerns arising after the promulgation of final rules under TSCA section 6(a) concerning trichlorethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE) and carbon tetrachloride (CTC).

*Improving Data Collection Efforts to Inform EPA's Understanding of Environmental and Human Health Impacts of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Combat PFAS Contamination*

The Agency is reconsidering PFAS data collection efforts under TSCA section 8(a)(7) to collect necessary information, as Congress envisioned and consistent with TSCA, without overburdening small businesses and article importers. The Agency has identified several aspects of the TSCA section 8(a)(7) PFAS reporting regulation published October 11, 2023, for potential revision to conform to the mandates of TSCA section 8(a)(5).

**Compliance with Executive Order 14192**

Section 3 of Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, requires that for every promulgated new regulation, agencies "shall identify at least 10 existing regulations to be repealed" and "to ensure that the total incremental cost of all new regulations...being finalized this year shall be significantly less than zero... ." Each action in the EPA's Fall 2025 Regulatory Plan and Semiannual Regulatory Agenda contains information about whether an action is anticipated to be "regulatory" or "deregulatory" in fulfilling this executive order EPA will continue to evaluate all its activities to ensure adherence to statutory requirements while balancing the need to comply with Executive Orders, such as 14192.

**Rules Expected to Affect Small Entities**

By better coordinating small business activities, the EPA aims to improve its technical assistance and outreach efforts, minimize burdens to small businesses in its regulations, and simplify small businesses' participation in its voluntary programs. Actions that may affect small entities can be tracked on the EPA's Regulatory Flexibility Web site (<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex>) at any time.