Diminishing Use of EPA Science To Protect Human and Environmental Health

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Science and for a healthy planet safer world.
1,028 scientists (60%) reported they had personally experienced at least one incident of political interference in their work over the last five years.
## Preserving Scientific Integrity in Federal Policymaking

**Lessons from the Past Two Administrations and What’s at Stake under the Trump Administration**

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Unprecedented Losses of Scientific Integrity

Overall, we find that the Trump administration’s violations of scientific integrity are largely a continuation and escalation of patterns built up over the past seven decades as science and the growing federal science apparatus increasingly came into conflict with political, economic, and ideological interests. While many of the Trump administration’s actions have origins in the work of prior administrations, others fit with the “unprecedented” narrative, including the uniquely open disregard for the conclusions of its own scientists.

Recent EPA Policy Changes

- Affordable Clean Energy Rule (Clean Power Plan replacement)
- Updates to the Ozone and Particulate Ambient Standards (End of 2020)
- Strengthening Transparency rule (Final Rule Dec 2019)
- Changes to Cost Benefit Analysis
  - White House guidance on the Information Quality Act
  - Pruitt directive for EPA to change cost-benefit approach (EPA Air office to release by Dec 2019)
- Loosening of Emissions Standards
  - CAFE Standards
  - Mercury and Air Toxics Rule
  - New Guidance on Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT)
  - Ditch continuous NO\(_x\) monitoring requirement
  - SO\(_2\) modeling change for permit processes
- Long-term implications of process/capacity changes now
The Clean Air Act Ambient Air Pollutant Policy Development Process

Scientific research on air pollutant and health and welfare effects

EPA assesses the scientific research

EPA receives independent science advice from its clean air science advisors and pollutant review panels

EPA administration makes decision on air pollutant standards

States and regions work to meet and enforce air pollutant standards
Changes to Cost Benefit Analysis

Here’s One *More* Political Assault on Public Health

Corporate interests, including the fossil fuel, auto and tobacco industries, are searching for ways to undermine the science that says particulate pollution kills

By Gretchen Goldman, Ploy Achakulwisut on June 17, 2019

https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/heres-one-more-political-assault-on-public-health/
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How the Trump Administration Has Undermined the Process

Administration proposed cutting research funding and inappropriately allowed political staff to review scientific grants.
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Administration proposed cutting research funding and inappropriately allowed political staff to review scientific grants.\(^a\)

EPA proposed rule restricting which scientific studies can be used in decisionmaking.\(^b\)
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EPA dismissed independent scientists from the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, replacing them largely with state and local regulators, and disbanded the pollutant review panels that have provided expert advice for decades.⁶
Don't abandon evidence and process on air pollution policy

Gretchen T. Goldman1, Francesca Dominici2
See all authors and affiliations


Fired EPA scientists to release air pollution report they say agency unqualified to issue

“In the history of the agency this has never happened. The new panel is unqualified and the new panel has said they were unqualified,” said a former EPA official.
Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule

Mercury and Air Toxics Standard

Rollback of Vehicle Standards
Changes to Emissions Standard Guidances: MACT Standard Example
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- Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler worked as a lobbyist for the coal industry, which has long pushed for weaker air pollution standards. Several other senior EPA leaders came from industries with financial stake in air pollution policy.\(^d\)
To amend the America COMPETES Act to establish certain scientific integrity policies for Federal agencies that fund, conduct, or oversee scientific research, and for other purposes.

Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. LATHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Scientific Integrity Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—
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Civil enforcement at EPA is at its lowest point in a decade and staff are leaving in record numbers, putting more pressure on under-resourced states to enforce air pollution protections.e
Disproportionate Impacts
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