

Clean Water Rule Repeal Talking Points

Rolling back the Clean Water Rule puts our drinking water at risk.

- We have less than a month to stop President Trump's reckless repeal of the Clean Water Rule.
- Scott Pruitt and President Trump know how unpopular and scientifically and legally indefensible repealing the Clean Water Rule is. So they are giving the public as little time as possible to weigh in on this dangerous proposal.
- Despite only giving the public 30 days to weigh in on their attempt to gut protections for streams, wetlands, and drinking water, President Trump and Scott Pruitt will learn quickly that their reckless and dangerous proposal to eliminate the clean water rule is deeply unpopular.
- The Trump Administration's rushed repeal is the first step in an assault that will put the drinking water for 117 million Americans at risk. The Administration hopes it flies under the radar and that his process to jeopardize drinking water sources people rely on is finished before anyone even knows what's happening.
- Repealing the Clean Water Rule puts polluter profits before public health. We don't get clean water by gutting protections for streams and wetlands.
- We can't support and grow small businesses by putting the natural water infrastructure they rely on at risk of destruction. We won't protect public health by ignoring the science that water quality throughout a watershed depends on what happens to upstream waterways.
- Repealing the Clean Water Rule is part of a huge assault on basic protections for clean water, including the Clean Water Act. It is a massive waste of time and taxpayer money that will put the drinking water of 1 in 3 of us at risk while EPA proposes a much weaker rule.
- Nearly 45 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, we have made tremendous progress, but many of our rivers, lakes, and bays are still not safe for swimming or fishing. Rolling back the Clean Water Rule will set that progress back.
- Low income communities and communities of color are already disproportionately impacted by contaminated water. Contaminated water can cause a variety of health problems, especially for children. Repealing the Clean Water Rule could put many of these communities at further risk.
(source)
- The health crisis around lead contamination in Flint justifiably grabbed headlines. However, Flint is not alone; many communities nationwide are facing similar challenges. Instead of repealing the common sense Clean Water Rule, the administration should be focusing on what actions they can take to ensure all communities have access to safe, clean drinking water.

Rolling back water protections is bad for our health.

- By slashing clean water safeguards, the President and Scott Pruitt are putting the health of hundreds of millions of us at risk.
- Few things are more fundamental to our health than the water we drink. No one should have to worry about pollution when they turn on the tap. But that is exactly what could happen if the Trump Administration succeeds in repealing the Clean Water Rule and replacing it with a rule that will cut the heart out of the Clean Water Act.
- Small and rural communities, who rely on private wells or whose water systems lack the resources to deal with polluted sources, may be hit the hardest by the roll back.

Protecting rivers and streams is essential to our heritage and we must pass our legacy of stewardship on to the next generation.

- This is the biggest threat to our water in a generation. On top of the President's proposed budget that decimates our water protection programs, the Trump Administration's reckless and rushed repeal of the Clean Water Rule compounds the potential damage to our precious waterways.
- Clean water is essential to the outdoor economy. In 2011, hunters spent \$34 billion, anglers spent \$41.8 billion, and wildlife watchers spent \$55 billion. Repealing the Clean Water Rule and attacking the Clean Water Act puts our economy at risk. ([source](#))
- Anglers and hunters know that clean water is essential to fish and wildlife. Repealing the Clean Water Rule will put streams and wetlands throughout the country at risk of pollution and destruction.

The Clean Water Rule is about stopping pollution before it happens.

- People suffer when polluters get free passes to destroy our rivers and drinking water sources, which is exactly what repealing the Clean Water Rule will do. We need to be doing more, not less, to rein in polluters and stop pollution at the source.
- Families will not accept a future of more polluted rivers and more dirty water flowing through our taps, our communities, and our bodies. The Trump Administration underestimates how much the public cares about commonsense protections for clean water.
- Repealing the Clean Water Rule is another step in a polluter-powered assault on public health and our communities.

The Clean Water Rule followed a robust public process.

- Before finalizing the Clean Water Rule in 2015, EPA held more than 400 meetings with stakeholders across the country and published a synthesis of more than 1200 peer-reviewed scientific publications, which showed that the

small streams and wetlands the Rule safeguards are vital to larger downstream waters. That won't be the case under Scott Pruitt's EPA.

- During a seven month comment period, the EPA received more than one million public comments on the rule, [87% of which were supportive](#). A wide range of stakeholders supported the rule – including [83% of hunters and anglers](#).
- Pruitt plans to ram through the repeal of the Clean Water Rule, then propose and finalize a less protective rule in less than a year. This won't allow for meaningful consideration or proper public engagement.
- Rolling back the rule will result in the same regulatory confusion that resulted in broad-based calls for clarity about which of our nation's waterways the Clean Water Act protects. Rolling back the rule is bad governance, bad for businesses who rely on regulatory certainty, and bad for our communities that deserve clean water.