

(Unintended) Laugh Lines in EPA's New Strategic Plan **[Pruitt's "Plan" vs. His Actions]**

“Goal 1 – Core Mission: Deliver real results to provide Americans with clean air, land, and water.”

Administrator Pruitt is directing the rollback of more than 50 clean air, water, and hazardous waste regulations.

“Objective 1.1 - Improve Air Quality:

Work with states to accurately measure air quality and ensure that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards.”

The Trump administration wants to burn more coal for power generation and relax standards for public exposure to particulate matter.

“EPA protects the public from unnecessary exposure to radiation...”

EPA just declared that radiation exposures equivalent to as many as 5,000 chest x-rays “usually result in no harmful health effects,” contradicting the agency’s decade-old position that “There is no known safe amount of radiation.”

“EPA core water programs will:

- Work with partners to protect and restore wetlands and coastal and ocean water resources;
- Reduce the number of square miles of watershed with surface water not meeting standards.”

Pruitt is moving to repeal the Obama Clean Water Rule and replace it by stripping Clean Water Act protections for streams, wetlands, and other water-bodies providing drinking water for 117 million Americans – one third of our population.

“EPA will help protect human health and make America’s water systems secure by:

- Taking actions to address known and emerging contaminants that endanger human health;”
Key EPA decision-makers in this area now all come from the American Chemistry Council or have financial ties to its members who are chemical manufacturers.

“Recent challenges in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere have highlighted the need to strengthen EPA’s implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure we protect and build upon the enormous public health benefits achieved through the provision of safe drinking water throughout the country.”

Elsewhere, the Plan proposes “Cooperative Federalism” to cede more autonomy to state programs – like Michigan’s.

“Strategic Measures

- Reduce the backlog and meet statutory deadlines for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and appeals.”

On October 11, 2017, the EPA Office of Public Affairs informed people requesting agency documents:

“Based on the current number of FOIA requests pending in OPA and the resources involved to process each of those FOIA requests from start to

finish, we anticipate completing your FOIA Request by 9/28/2018...Thank you very much for your interest in the EPA”

“Sustainable resource levels and a strong workforce are critical to success.”

EPA has proposed to cut both its budget and workload by approximately one-third.

“EPA will identify, assess, conduct, and apply the best available science to address current and future environmental hazards, develop new approaches, and improve the scientific foundation for environmental protection decisions.” And

“Over the next four years, the Agency will: Assess human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, and global scales.”

The Strategic Plan does not mention climate change.

“Objective 2.2 - Increase Transparency...”

Scott Pruitt has just spent \$25,000 to install a secure, surveillance-proof phone booth, called a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, in his personal office.

“Strategic Measure

- Increase the percentage of decisions using EPA research and scientific analysis.”
EPA scientists report repeated instances of being told to rewrite scientific and technical analyses by political appointees.

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