

Trump's EPA just made it easier for polluters to poison our nation's water. Help us stop the latest assault on our water and health!

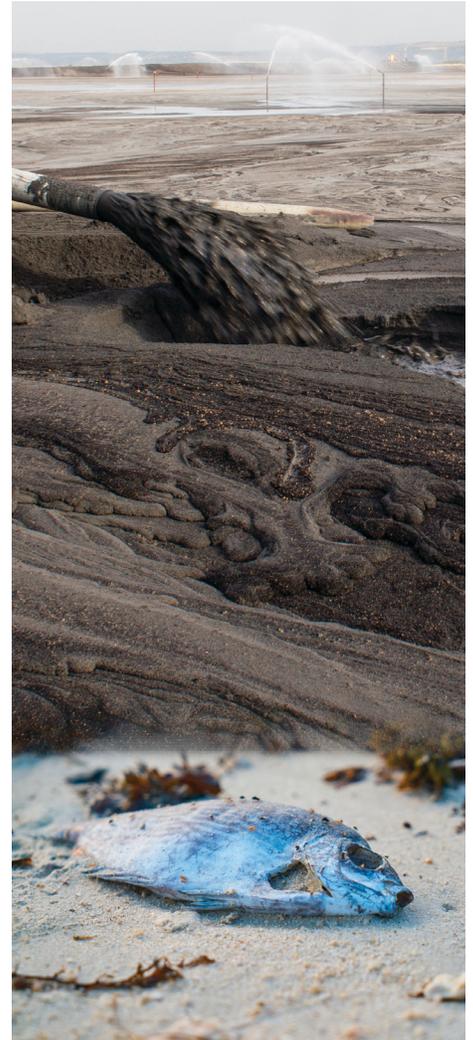
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler is out to please his polluter allies at the expense of water quality, public health, and the environment. His latest assault is on the Clean Water Act's coverage of pollution that flows into lakes, rivers, and bays through groundwater. **Tell EPA not to weaken the Clean Water Act today!**

On April 15, 2019, EPA announced it will not regulate pollution in rivers, lakes, streams, and bays if that pollution first flows through groundwater. Pollution from livestock feedlots, coal ash impoundments, sewage injection wells, pipelines, and other industrial sources can all enter surface waters by way of groundwater first. This decision ignores the fact that both Democratic and Republican administrations have required Clean Water Act permits for this type of pollution. This decision also contradicts statements the agency made only three years ago that argued sewage discharges that reach the ocean via groundwater require a Clean Water Act pollution permit. **EPA should immediately withdraw its pro-polluter scheme that would allow industries to launder their dangerous pollution through groundwater to avoid getting a permit.**

Trump's EPA claims its narrow interpretation is the "best, if not the only, reading of the Clean Water Act," yet several federal courts have ruled the Act clearly bans unpermitted dumping of pollution from a pipe or other point source to river, lake, or bay, including when the pollution flows through groundwater before reaching surface water. **That's because it doesn't make sense for the Clean Water Act to cover pollution dumped from a pipe into a river, but not pollution that flows through groundwater into that same river.**

EPA has no authority to create a polluter loophole that does not exist in the language of the Clean Water Act. Congress included no such exemption because in order to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters," it embraced a broad view to protect water quality. Whether pollution is dumped directly into a river through a pipe or enters that river after traveling through groundwater matters little to the fish or recreational user exposed to that pollution. **To exclude pollution that enters our nation's waters through groundwater from the Clean Water Act would blast open a loophole to benefit polluting industries at the expense of public health and water quality.**

To provide cover for polluting industries whose arguments are not standing up in court, EPA is creating a new loophole that defies the intent of the Clean Water Act. This undermines EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment and would leave a huge gap in water protections, leaving our most valuable resource without protection. Tell EPA to withdraw its plan to give polluters a free pass to destroy our water. **TAKE ACTION TODAY!**



Sample Comment Letter ►

**Write a
comment
today.**

**Help us stop
the latest
assault on
our water
and health!**

Re: EPA-HQ-OW-2019-0166

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

I strongly oppose the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s decision not to protect surface waters from pollution that first moves through groundwater. EPA and states have required permits for this type of pollution for decades and it's reckless to reverse course now. It makes no sense for the Clean Water Act to cover pollution dumped from a pipe into a river, but not pollution that flows through groundwater into that same river.

Your decision is a handout to polluting industries that will create a dangerous new loophole in the Clean Water Act. EPA must continue to hold polluters accountable for dumping chemicals and other pollutants into groundwater that also contaminate our nation's rivers, lakes, and bays.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Print Your Name and Address

