



Institute for  
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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## STATEMENT ON INJUNCTION OF BLM'S METHANE WASTE SUSPENSION RULE

Last night, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California [issued a preliminary injunction](#) on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) second attempt to suspend its Waste Prevention Rule, an Obama-era rule preventing methane waste at oil and natural gas facilities on public land. As a result of this court's decision, the BLM's Waste Prevention Rule now goes into effect. While [BLM issued a proposal to repeal this safeguard last night](#), the proposal will not be finalized for at least several months, and will then be challenged. In the meantime, the original rule will be in effect. A previous court decision [vacated](#) BLM's first attempt to stay the rule, finding that BLM did not have statutory authority for the stay and failed to consider the impact that stalling the rule would have on the public.

The Waste Prevention Rule confers substantial benefits to the public and industry because it requires companies to conserve more natural gas at the well site, while also limiting harmful emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Recovering additional natural gas also leads to greater royalty payments for both the federal government and states, where it helps pay for schools and other important services.

**Bethany Davis Noll**, litigation director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law, has released the following statement on this ruling:

"This case is part of a broader pattern of illegality that seeks to undo beneficial regulations. This pattern continues to create a large amount of uncertainty for regulated industries. In this specific case, the judge rightly recognized that the benefits far outweigh the compliance costs to industry. The Waste Prevention Rule would generate \$209–\$403 million per year in industry savings and health and environmental benefits, according to BLM's original economic analysis."

Bethany Davis Noll is available for interviews on this ruling and related issues.

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