



Institute for
Policy Integrity

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STATEMENT ON “CENSORED SCIENCE” RULE COURT DECISION

Today, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana vacated the Trump administration’s “Censored Science” rule. This rule would have seriously hindered the Environmental Protection Agency’s ability to rely on epidemiological studies revealing the adverse consequences of contaminants on human populations. As such, it would have constricted the agency from considering important evidence in a wide range of environmental rulemakings, with serious public health implications.

Richard Revesz, Director of the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law, has released the following statement:

The “censored science” rule was one of the Trump administration’s most brazen efforts to undermine the scientific foundations of regulatory policy. This rule would have stood in the way of more protective environmental safeguards, and thereby would have caused a significant number of premature deaths and other adverse health consequences for the American people.

In its effort to rush the rule so it would become effective before President Biden took office, the Trump EPA grounded it in the Federal Housekeeping Statute, which governs “the conduct of [an agency’s] employees, the distribution and performance of its business, and the custody, use, and preservation of its records, papers, and property.”

Today, the Trump anti-science effort, which had been opposed by the leadership of major scientific organizations, was quickly dispatched. A judge correctly vacated the rule on the grounds that a regulation with such wide-ranging substantive effects could not be justified on a provision governing the use of an agency’s staff and resources.

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