



Institute for  
**Policy Integrity**

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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## **STATEMENT ON WEAKENING OF CLEAN WATER PROTECTIONS**

Today, the Trump administration plans to finalize a rule that will dramatically weaken the scope of the Clean Water Act. This rule, to be issued by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, includes a new definition of the “Waters of the United States” that reverses longstanding Clean Water Act protections. The Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law submitted [comments](#) on the proposed rule and has conducted extensive analysis on clean water regulation in recent years.

**Bethany Davis Noll, Litigation Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:**

*“Science and economics have been cast aside in the design of this rule. The agencies have conducted a hopelessly flawed economic analysis that rests on fundamentally incorrect assumptions and is sure to face a vigorous legal challenge. This rule leaves numerous waters without federal protections, and despite the Trump administration’s assertions, most states are unlikely to fill the void with their own safeguards.”*

The Institute for Policy Integrity’s recent analysis on these issues includes:

- [Comments](#) on the proposed version of this rule.
- An [expert report](#) from two Ph.D economists detailing the flaws in the Trump administration’s new valuation of wetland benefits.
- A [brief](#) for litigation on the Trump administration’s previous attempt to delay the protections of the Clean Water Rule.
- A [report](#) on how the Trump administration is obscuring the value of wetlands protection from the Clean Water Rule.
- Our [resource](#) that tracks the outcomes of legal challenges to Trump administration policy changes.

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[The Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original

scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.