



Institute for
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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STATEMENT ON COURT RULING ON FEDERAL COAL LEASING MORATORIUM

Late on Friday, the U.S. District Court of the District of Montana [ruled](#) that the Trump administration’s Interior Department did not adequately consider the environmental impacts of coal mining on public lands when it reversed the Obama administration’s moratorium on new coal leasing in 2017.

Jayni Hein, Natural Resources Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement on this ruling:

“When it lifted the moratorium on coal leasing in 2017, Interior failed to do any environmental analysis of its major action, even while federal coal accounts for 40% of the nation’s total and coal is the most polluting of our energy sources. This decision makes clear that Interior is not above the law and cannot ignore decades’ worth of legal precedent. This is a textbook NEPA case. Interior must conduct an environmental review of the federal coal leasing program because it lifted the moratorium, relaunching a major program that emits greenhouse gases and other air pollutants.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law has followed both this case and the original moratorium closely, releasing a [report](#) on the review of the federal coal program, among other publications and legal resources. Please let me know if you’d like to speak with Jayni Hein about the ruling or related issues.

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