

***From the Inside Out:
The Fight for Environmental Justice
within Government Agencies***

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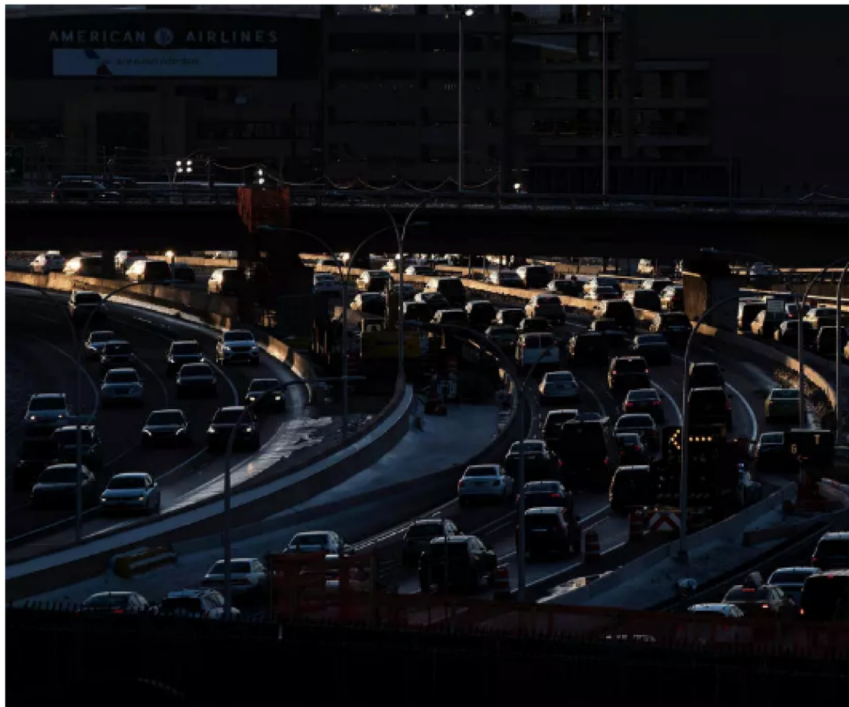




CLIMATE



E.P.A. Prepares to Roll Back Rules Requiring Cars to Be Cleaner and More Efficient



In His Haste to Roll Back Rules, Scott Pruitt, E.P.A. Chief, Risks His Agenda



E.P.A. Officials Sidelined After Questioning Scott Pruitt



Senators: Undercut First-Class

67 Environmental Rules on the Way Out Under Trump

By NADJA POPOVICH, LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA and KENDRA PIERRE-LOUIS **UPDATED** Jan. 31, 2018

Since taking office last year, President Trump has made eliminating federal regulations [a priority](#). His administration — with help from Republicans in Congress — has often targeted environmental rules it sees as overly burdensome to the fossil fuel industry, including major Obama-era policies aimed at fighting climate change.

To date, the Trump administration has sought to reverse more than 60 environmental rules, according to a New York Times analysis, based on research from Harvard Law School's [Environmental Regulation Rollback Tracker](#), Columbia Law School's [Climate Tracker](#) and other sources.

33

rules have been overturned

24

rollbacks are in progress

10

rollbacks are in limbo

■ Flood building standards

■ Clean Power Plan

■ Wetland and tributary

“We protect public health and the environment.”

Constraints to EJ policy implementation:

- Resources
- Regulatory authority
- Analytical tools

“Our hands are tied.”

Constraints to agencies' EJ reform efforts:

- Resources
- Regulatory authority
- Analytical tools
- My book focuses on *elements of regulatory workplace culture*: everyday practices through which staff defend the status quo and reject EJ reforms as violating what their organization does and should do.

You are pushing against a brick wall in every single direction.
Internally with staff at the state agency, I was pushing against a brick wall all day just to move it a centimeter.

– Mary, government agency EJ staff person

“EPA does ecology, not sociology.”

- memo to EPA leadership on proposed EJ reforms

They say, “Why should I solicit input from the public when I was hired to make these decisions myself?”

- Janine, EJ-supportive staff person

Some staff and managers [allege that this EJ reform constitutes] reverse racism. [They say,] “Why should those communities of color get this extra treatment? We need to protect that middle-class white community, too.”

- Elizabeth, EJ-supportive staff person

[EJ reforms are] unnecessary [because] we are doing the same thing for people, regardless of who they are.

- Tim, manager

People would say, “That's just a box I check. They expect me to change what I wrote?!”

- Hank, retired manager

Actual supervisors... would call out [in meetings] and say,
“You are screwed. You are not ever going to go anywhere in
the department, because you are blacklisted because of EJ.
...You will never get a promotion.”

- Peter, EJ staff person

There are plenty of examples, ...instances in which I know persons have said that a manager has told them, "Don't work on EJ, because that may affect your career." ... People have been called "troublemakers." ... When you have a manager that just says it when you are walking down the hall and you haven't talked to that manager in weeks.... They don't say, "Still causing trouble in that particular project?" No! He just says, "Still causing trouble?" ... They weren't precise when they said it. That's how most discrimination occurs. That's why you can't prove it. It's because when someone does something that is discriminatory, they are not trying to be obvious about it.... They don't want to give you an obvious red flag by where you would record and document what they did. It could be written off as, "Well, maybe he didn't mean anything by it." Or, "Maybe you're just interpreting it the wrong way. I wouldn't think anything of it." Or they'll just get dismissive: "Don't worry about it. Maybe he was having a bad day." But he said it. Most of the time is has been in the context of EJ.

-Michael, government agency EJ staff person

Thank you!

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Executive Order on Environmental Justice:

To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review, each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations....