

Administration cites agriculture, homebuilder, and sand and gravel industry opposition to EPA rule on small streams that Trump is ordering reviewed – and golf courses are against it, too

- **President Trump signs an executive order today on Waters of the United States**
- **The Obama administration put forth a sweeping rule in 2015 that expanded federal jurisdiction into smaller waters**
- **The Trump administration complains that it 'vastly expanded' federal jurisdiction**
- **Trump is ordering the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to refer to a 2006 opinion by the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia**
- **The Obama rule was opposed by fertilizer, pesticide, homeowners, and golf course groups concerned about regulatory authority**
- **The Trump organization owns golf courses in New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, and other locales**
- **New EPA head Scott Pruitt sued the EPA over the rule in 2015**

By Geoff Earle, Deputy U.s. Political Editor For Dailymail.com

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President Trump's executive order to start rolling back an Obama administration rule on waters in the United States is backed by a host of affected industry groups – including some like golf courses that are connected to his business interests.

Trump's order will start the long process of rolling back a sweeping 2015 executive order by President Obama that brought back federal regulation to small rivers and streams, after a lengthy court battle over the limits of federal authority.

'It vastly expands federal jurisdiction into state local areas land use decisions. It vastly expanded federal jurisdiction over state waters,' said a Trump administration official in a briefing to reporters about Trump's impending order.

The official noted that some 375 groups came out in opposition to the rule, and listed agriculture interests, home builders, as well as sand and gravel manufacturers.

Another group that made its interests known was the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



President Donald Trump waves as he steps from Air Force One upon his arrival in West Palm Beach, Florida, is signing an executive order requiring a review of a 2015 rule on waters of the United States

'It's a positive statement if the Trump administration is asking the EPA to go back and work with stakeholders to come up with a better rule,' Chaba McKeel, director of government affairs for the group, told DailyMail.com Tuesday.

'We thought it was a bit disruptive to federal cooperativism. We believe it kind of took that rule and took it out of balance,' she continued. 'If it is a nod to the agency to work with stakeholders to repeal and replace and come up with a better rule, then we would be supportive of that.'

She said the association would be part of the stakeholder group that would 'go to EPA, meet with them, share our thoughts and concerns' as the rule gets rewritten.

More than a million people issued public comments during the rule-making process.

'It's very expansive,' said McKeel. 'A lot of lawyers and people that are technical experts in the clean water act said that it was written so broadly that it could really bring into account almost every drop of water including ditches in your backyard as a homeowner.'



View of an American flag on a flagstick in a golf course hole on the west lawn of the Mar-a-Lago estate, Palm Beach, Florida, February 13, 2017



WATER HAZARD: The tenth hole of the Trump National Golf Club is shown during the first round of the Office Depot Championship September 30, 2005 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California



DRAIN THE SWAMP: Pictured is a 1,400 acre farm near King George, VA on the banks of the Potomac. This is an example of a non-tidal wetland



President Trump is ordering the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to 'review and consider' an court opinion by the late Antonin Scalia that the Clean Water Act should only cover 'permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water'

The Trump organization owns golf courses in New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, and other locales. Trump played golf February 19 with pro Rory McIlroy at his Trump International course in West Palm beach.

The new head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, sued the agency in 2015 over the rule as attorney general of Oklahoma.

'Respect for private property rights have allowed our nation to thrive, but with the recently finalized rule, farmers, ranchers, developers, industry and individual property owners will now be subject to the unpredictable, unsound, and often byzantine regulatory regime of the EPA,' Pruitt said in a statement, the [Tulsa World](#) reported at the time.

He blasted 'EPA's brazen effort to stifle private property rights.'



LAND O LAKES: An aerial course overview from the MetLife Snoopy One Blimp during the second round of the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship at Blue Monster, Trump National Doral, on March 4, 2016



The Obama rule on waters of the United States was opposed by fertilizer, pesticide, homeowners, and golf course groups concerned about regulatory authority. Pictured is Baltimore's Inner Harbor skyline, with the National Aquarium and other attractions

The order will tell the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to 'review and consider' a Supreme Court opinion by the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who argued that the Clean Water Act should only cover 'permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water,' the [Washington Times](#) reported.

Trump is also ordering Attorney General Jeff Sessions to hold off on any further litigation in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the venue where the Obama rule has been challenged.

The Obama rule instructs the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to review the rule that included smaller creeks and wetlands under the 'waters of the United states' under federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

Trump blasted the water rule during his campaign, calling it an overreach.

Democrats have touted its safeguards for drinking water and its efforts to delineate what water bodies are covered.

It is expected to take years for the review and any subsequent rule-making to occur.

The administration official, who spoke to reporters on the condition of anonymity, called it a 'long odyssey' of 30 years.

The League of Conservation Voters blasted the move, saying in a statement: "This executive order is about one thing: protecting polluters at the expense of our communities and their access to clean drinking water.

David Strayer, a freshwater ecologist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, wrote in a Feb. 11 op-ed in the Albany Times Union that rolling back the rule 'would allow agriculture to pollute more waters and roll out the red carpet for other polluters,' the Times noted.

'And we would be left paying the price, as the quality of drinking water degrades, beaches close, lakes and rivers fill with algal scums, waterfront businesses and property values suffer, and fish, birds and other wildlife disappear,' he wrote.