



EPA Withdraws Oil and Gas Industry Information Collection Request

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Yesterday, on March 2, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was withdrawing its November 10, 2016 Information Collection Request (ICR) for industry owners and operators to provide the EPA with information on equipment and emissions at existing oil and gas facilities. The withdrawal is effective immediately.

After the EPA issued its final November ICR, fifteen states and industry partners challenged the previous administration's attempts to govern emission of greenhouse gases from a broad spectrum of new facilities within the oil and natural gas sector in three related lawsuits. In addition, on March 1, 2017, the Attorneys General of Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia sent a letter to Administrator Pruitt expressing their concerns regarding the scope of the ICR and indicating that it is burdensome and duplicative of current state regulatory collection efforts.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt indicated the withdrawal would allow the agency to assess its need for the requested information. In addition, he indicated that the withdrawal signaled that it took the states' concerns seriously and is committed to strengthening the EPA's partnership with the states.

For further information regarding the withdrawal, please contact [Jim Martin](#).