

# CLIMATE POWER

## FACT SHEET: EPA'S CUTS AND ROLLEBACKS IMPACT TEXANS

Trump's EPA is rolling back protections and canceling crucial funding for communities across Texas. These actions threaten Texans' access to clean air and water and make communities across the state less resilient to the impacts of climate change.

### TRUMP'S EPA TARGETED AND DELAYED CLEAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

Trump created uncertainty over the EPA's Clean School Bus Program by [freezing](#) and then [releasing](#) funds. 22 Texas school districts [were selected for or awarded](#) over \$76 million from the EPA's Clean School Bus Rebate Program for 232 school buses. In addition, two Texas school districts [received](#) nearly \$14 million through Clean School Bus Grants for 35 buses. Another fourteen districts received funding for nearly 80 buses. Trump's OBBBA went on to [end tax credits](#) for clean school buses.

Trump's EPA [terminated](#) the Solar for All program, which expanded access to residential solar to low-income communities. Texas' Harris County was awarded over [\\$249 million](#) in Solar for All funding before the EPA [ended](#) the program. The funding would have supported programs to lower bills by more than 20% in communities, saving households [\\$1,740](#) annually.

### TRUMP'S EPA TARGETED GRANT PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS TEXAS

In spring 2025, Trump's EPA [canceled](#) over \$22 billion in environmental justice grants and planned to cancel [nearly 800](#) in total.

- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for Sewa International that would have created a linear forest program to plant native trees to reduce heat spots in Alief.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for the Black United Fund of Texas to establish a free solar workforce development program, offer environmental justice educational opportunities, and mitigate illegal dumping.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for the City of Houston that would have established a city-wide environmental justice advisory committee and created an air monitoring program.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for the City of Dallas to implement vegetative buffers along roadways to improve air quality and reduce local heat island impacts.
- Trump's EPA [canceled](#) a grant for Houston Wilderness to install nature-based infrastructure to reduce urban heat and create a dashboard to track heat and fine particulate matter pollution.

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- Trump’s EPA [canceled](#) a grant for the Downwinders at Risk Education Fund to build air quality sensors to grow a larger regional air monitoring presence.

## TRUMP’S EPA WORKED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR COAL-FIRED POWER AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TO POLLUTE TEXAS’ AIR AND WATER

Trump’s EPA [repealed](#) the endangerment finding, which obligated the federal government to protect Americans from climate pollution.

- As of 2025, more than [3.7 million Texans](#) were particularly vulnerable to air pollution due to age and at-risk [health conditions](#).
- As of 2025, the [Houston-Pasadena](#) metropolitan area ranked seventh for high ozone days and eighth for the worst annual particle pollution. The [Dallas-Fort Worth](#) metropolitan area ranked 10th for high ozone days and 30th for worst annual particle pollution.

Trump’s EPA gave [nearly 70 power plants](#) two-year exemptions from requirements to reduce the release of toxic chemicals like mercury, arsenic, and benzene. Six Texas [power plants](#) and other polluting [facilities](#) were granted exemptions, including:

- Ameren Missouri’s Martin Lake Steam Electric Station in Tatum received an [exemption](#). The Martin Lake Steam Electric Station is [responsible](#) for 154 excess deaths, 63 heart attacks, and over 7,000 lost work days each year.
  - In September 2025, Trump’s EPA [withdrew](#) its “nonattainment designation” for sulfur dioxide pollution levels in the surrounding area of the Martin Lake plant.
- Five Southern Company plants received [exemptions](#): Oak Grove Steam, Limestone Generation Station, W.A. Parish Generating Station, Coletto Creek Power Station, and the San Miguel Cooperative, Inc.

In Texas, the following facilities [have received](#) exemptions from environmental protections from Trump’s EPA. Dozens of additional facilities were also [seeking](#) exemptions from the EPA.

Facility	Type	City	Status	Protection
Coletto Creek Power Station	Coal Power Plant	Fannin	Received	MATS
San Miguel	Coal Power Plant	Christine	Received	MATS
W. A. Parish	Coal Power Plant	Richmond	Received	MATS
Oak Grove	Coal Power Plant	Franklin	Received	MATS

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Limestone	Coal Power Plant	Jewett	Received	MATS
Martin Lake	Coal Power Plant	Tatum	Received	MATS

- Trump's EPA said it would [reconsider](#) protections on coal-fired power plants that reduced carbon pollution, avoiding thousands of deaths and asthma cases while netting up to [\\$370 billion](#) in climate and public health benefits. A 2023 study [found that](#) coal-fired power plants caused [20,000 excess deaths](#) in Texas from 1999-2020.

Trump's EPA said that it would update water pollution rules for coal-fired power plants and the coal ash they produce.

- The EPA [announced](#) it would propose a rule to extend seven compliance deadlines for the 2024 effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for coal-fired power plants.
- Trump's EPA [announced](#) it would update protections for power plants' [safe disposal](#) of coal ash and [pushed back](#) the deadlines for utilities to report contamination from toxic coal ash landfills, install groundwater monitoring systems, and draft plans for pollution cleanup by another year.
  - Coal ash, which is stored in sites at risk of spilling into rivers and lakes, [contains](#) chemicals such as arsenic, selenium, lead, mercury, and boron, and other contaminants known to cause cancer, neurological damage, and heart problems.
  - As of September 2025, coal ash was [stored](#) at 19 current and former power plant sites in Texas. Of the plants with available data, all but one are contaminating groundwater above federal safe drinking water standards.
    - 15 landfills and 35 coal ash ponds in Texas [contained](#) over 156 million cubic yards of toxic coal ash, the equivalent of a football field piled nearly 14 miles high with coal ash.
  - In 2022, the Environmental Integrity Project ranked the San Miguel Electric Plant, located south of San Antonio, as the [most contaminated](#) coal ash site in the country.
- In November 2025, Trump's EPA [proposed](#) giving 11 coal-fired power plants an additional three years to continue disposing of coal ash in unlined ponds, including [two](#) in Texas: the Coletto Creek Power Plant in Fannin and the J. Robert Welsh Power Plant in Pittsburgh.

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In November 2025, Trump’s EPA [filed](#) a motion attempting to get rid of stricter air pollution [protections](#) for soot, which is [linked](#) to heart attacks, cancer, and premature deaths. The standards were expected to provide up to [\\$46 billion](#) in public health benefits and avoid [4,500 premature deaths](#).

- In 2025, 12 counties in Texas [exceeded](#) federal soot standards.
- A 2016 analysis [found](#) that over 8,400 Texans died that year from exposure to particulate matter, along with nearly 25,000 new Alzheimer’s cases, over 7,000 new asthma cases, and over 2,000 strokes.

Trump’s EPA announced it would [reconsider](#) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that were expected to reduce toxic metal [emissions](#) by 67% and generate \$430 million in health and climate [benefits](#). In January 2026, the EPA [sent](#) its repeal of air toxics protections for coal and oil-fired power plants to the White House for review.

- 13 Texas coal power plant facilities [reported](#) mercury emissions in 2023. Mercury [exposure](#) is linked to issues with the digestive and immune systems, lungs, skin, and eyes, and is particularly threatening to developing fetuses.
- The rule would have [required](#) the San Miguel plant in McMullen County to improve its rate of mercury pollution reduction by 92%. The San Miguel plant was Texas’ fourth-largest mercury polluter.

Trump’s EPA [granted](#) Clean Air Act compliance passes for U.S. Steel, which was headquartered in Pittsburgh, and Cleveland-Cliffs, giving their steel plants until 2027 to meet air pollution protections that were supposed to go into effect in April 2025.

- U.S. Steel [operated](#) an oilwell services facility in Houston.

In January 2026, Trump’s EPA [proposed](#) a rule to limit states’ ability to block the construction of pipelines and polluting energy projects under the Clean Water Act. The following projects which could impact waterways were pending approval or under construction in Texas:

Company	Project	Construction Scope	Potential Water Impact
Phillips 66 and Trafigura JV	Bluewater Texas Terminal	<a href="#">Two 30-inch-diameter pipelines, 55 miles of onshore and offshore</a>	<a href="#">Corpus Christi Ship Channel</a> and <a href="#">the Gulf of Mexico</a> . No CWA permit found.
Sentinel Midstream	Texas Gulflink Project	<a href="#">Build an offshore port off the coast of Brazoria County</a>	<a href="#">Gulf of Mexico</a> . No CWA permit found.

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Energy Transfer	Blue Marlin Offshore Port	<a href="#">37-mile pipeline to transfer oil for a deepwater port</a>	<a href="#">Neches River, Bessie Heights Marsh, and Sabine Lake</a> . No CWA permit found.
Kinder Morgan	Western Gateway Pipeline, SFPP reversal	<a href="#">Complete a 1,300-mile pipeline from Borger, TX to Phoenix, AZ</a>	This pipeline would <a href="#">begin in northern Texas</a> , cross through New Mexico and back to the El Paso terminal. At the angles shown, crossing New Mexico to El Paso and back into New Mexico <a href="#">would appear</a> to cross both the Pecos River in New Mexico before Texas, as well as the Rio Grande. No CWA permit found.
Marathon Pipeline	BANGL Expansion	<a href="#">Increase the capacity of the 425-mile pipeline to 300,000 barrels per day.</a>	The <a href="#">pipeline</a> would appear to cross the <a href="#">Nueces River</a> . No CWA permit found.
Enterprise Products Partners	Bahia Pipeline	Build a <a href="#">550-mile</a> pipeline.	The <a href="#">pipeline's route</a> would appear to cross the <a href="#">Brazos River in Robertson County</a> . No CWA permit found.
EPIC Pipeline	EPIC Y-grade expansion	Expands the pipeline <a href="#">to 250,000 barrels</a> per day.	The pipeline's <a href="#">route</a> from <a href="#">Orla Terminal</a> to Crane Terminal appears to cross the <a href="#">Pecos River</a> . No CWA permit found.
MPLX - OneOK	LPG Export Terminal in Texas City, Texas	<a href="#">Build a 400,000 barrel per day export terminal in Texas City.</a>	Appeared to be a <a href="#">marine terminal</a> ; Texas City was located on the <a href="#">Galveston Bay</a> . No CWA permit found.
OneOK	Sun Belt Connector	<a href="#">Build a new pipeline from El Paso, TX to Phoenix, AZ.</a>	If the <a href="#">pipeline routes</a> from El Paso and through New Mexico towards Phoenix, then the pipeline <a href="#">would cross</a>

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			the Rio Grande. No CWA permit found.
Freeport LNG	Train 4	<a href="#">Planned LNG export terminal in Freeport, TX.</a>	The terminal expansion was planned to be located on Quintana Island on the <a href="#">Gulf of Mexico</a> . No CWA permit found.
Glenfarne Group	Texas LNG Brownsville	<a href="#">Planned LNG export terminal in Brownsville</a>	Texas LNG Brownsville's export terminal was planned to be <a href="#">in the Port of Brownsville, TX</a> . No CWA permit found.
Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC	Stage 4 Project	<a href="#">Planned expansion of CCL's facilities</a> included storage tanks, a marine berth, and additional pipeline.	CCL is on the La Quinta Ship Channel <a href="#">on the shore of Corpus Christi Bay</a> . No CWA permit found.
NextDecade	Rio Grande LNG CP16-454	LNG <a href="#">export terminal</a> plus pipeline under construction in Brownsville.	Rio Grande LNG's site was at the <a href="#">Port of Brownsville</a> on the Gulf of Mexico. No CWA permit found.

## TRUMP'S EPA WEAKENED PROTECTIONS ON TOXIC PFAS CHEMICALS FOUND IN TEXAS' WATER

Trump's EPA pushed to [roll back](#) protections on four types of PFAS that contaminate our water supplies, [withdrew](#) a rule requiring PFAS manufacturers to monitor and reduce their pollution, and [proposed](#) scaling back requirements for chemical manufacturers to report their PFAS use.

- In February 2025, Johnson County [declared](#) a state of disaster after testing confirmed PFAS in soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue at [dangerous levels](#) hundreds of times higher than EPA standards.
- Trump's EPA pushed to [give](#) utilities two more years to comply with limits. EPA data showed that at least 50 public water systems in Texas [exceeded](#) federal PFAS limits in drinking water.

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## TRUMP'S EPA PUSHED TO SLASH A RANGE OF CLEAN AIR PROTECTIONS, HARMING THE AIR TEXANS BREATHE

Trump's EPA pushed to [weaken](#) and [delay](#) protections for [methane](#) pollution until January 2027. Protections on methane pollution, which is [responsible](#) for over 1 million premature deaths annually, were [expected](#) to yield up to \$98 billion in climate and health benefits from 2024 to 2038.

- From January 2019 to September 2025, Texas had [dozens](#) of methane super-emitter sites according to satellite data. Methane is [released](#) during oil and gas production alongside toxic chemicals such as hydrogen sulfide and benzene, which can cause cancer, neurological, reproductive, and respiratory problems.

Trump's EPA [proposed](#) rolling back the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program and suspending reporting mandates for oil and gas companies until 2034. The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program [required](#) large polluters to report the release of toxic air pollutants.

- In 2023, 747 [facilities](#) in Texas reported releasing more than 25,000 metric tons of harmful air pollution.
- Texas' largest polluter in 2023 was the Martin Lake Power Plant in [Tatum](#), releasing 12,787,949 metric tons of toxic pollution.

Trump's EPA [announced](#) it would end the "good neighbor plan," which [sought to ensure](#) that 23 states reduced pollution that impacted states downwind. Pollution from 17 states [impairs](#) Texas' air quality.

- The good neighbor plan was [expected](#) to save 1,704 lives and prevent 712 heart attacks, 414 hospitalizations, and 665 ER visits each year in Texas alone. It was also expected to provide the state with \$14 billion in benefits annually.
- In January 2026, Trump's EPA [published](#) a draft rule to approve Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky's [weaker](#) smog plans.
  - Under the "good neighbor plan," pollution reductions in [Alabama](#), [Mississippi](#), [Kentucky](#), [Kansas](#), and [Tennessee](#) would have improved air quality in Texas.

## TRUMP'S EPA LAID OFF WORKERS FROM REGIONAL OFFICES IN TEXAS

Trump's sweeping [layoffs](#) of federal workers impacted EPA [staff](#), including [environmental justice](#) staff.

- In February 2025, at least [eight](#) Dallas-based EPA employees were laid off.