

Published on *American Geosciences Institute* (<https://www.americangeosciences.org>)

Home > House holds contentious hearing on EPA's proposed changes to Clean Water Act

House holds contentious hearing on EPA's proposed changes to Clean Water Act

July 9, 2014

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing on July 9 to discuss proposed changes to the Clean Water Act. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a rule to clarify which waters are protected under the act. According to the EPA, the new rule reduces confusion about Clean Water Act protection and makes the permitting process faster and more cost-efficient.

Deputy Administrator of the EPA Robert Perciasepe served as the only witness, countering claims that the rule expands EPA regulatory jurisdiction, and affirming that the rule will undergo rigorous scientific review before it is finalized. He repeatedly refuted allegations that the EPA would regulate ponds, ditches or seasonal floodplains.

Republican Committee members were largely opposed to the rule; Rep. Collins (R-NY) accused Mr. Perciasepe of being arrogant and charged that “the public doesn’t trust you.” Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) claimed that the EPA is on a “regulation rampage.” Despite these comments, Mr. Perciasepe maintained the EPA’s position that the proposed change will reduce confusion, increase efficiency, and provide better protections from floods and pollution.

The EPA has extended the comment period for the proposed rule until October 20, 2014.

Source: House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
