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The Trump administration is planning to protect fewer waterways. New Jersey is suing to stop that.

By Blake Nelson

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New Jersey is suing the Trump Administration over what types of waterways are protected by the federal government.

The lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was filed Friday, according to court records, just weeks before a new rule takes effect that limits what wetlands and fresh and coastal waters are covered by the Clean Water Act.

“It has never been more important to protect our environment, which has a direct link to the health of our residents,” state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement Monday. “This rule is yet another example of EPA disregarding the law and placing industry over our natural resources.”

New Jersey has sued the agency at least nine times since Grewal took office in 2018, according to public records, and the state has filed complaints against the federal government about four dozen times overall.

President Barack Obama’s administration expanded what water was regulated by the federal government in 2015, and the EPA announced late last year that it would roll back those changes.

In a January statement, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the revisions would provide “regulatory certainty and predictability for American farmers, landowners and businesses to support the economy and accelerate critical infrastructure projects.”

Federal officials argued that public safety could still be protected without additional rules for groundwater, many ditches, certain types of waterways connected to farms or waterways that are dry parts of the year.

Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, disagreed.

“Trump’s new rule will mean more flooding, more filling in of wetlands, and more pollution from other states,” he said in a statement. “This will make it easier for developers, miners, and big business to ruin our rivers and streams.”

Friday’s lawsuit was filed by several states, including New York and California.

New Jersey has moved to beef up rules on its own.

In April, the state's Department of Environmental Protection announced it was increasing oversight of about 600 miles of streams and rivers, including a ban on development within 300 feet of any of those waterways.

Staff writer Michael Sol Warren contributed to this report.