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N.J. sues Trump 9 more times as his presidency ends

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Just a day before the end of Donald Trump's presidency, New Jersey announced a flurry of new environmental lawsuits to counter last-minute policy changes.

The state has filed nine complaints just since Friday against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other offices, officials said.

President-elect Joe Biden is expected to reverse many of Trump's environmental rollbacks. But state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal previously told NJ Advance Media that he couldn't count on Biden acting quickly since the rule-making process was often laborious.

Challenging the Trump administration in court was a more sure-fire way to stop the government from changing how it protects the air and water, he said.

"The environmental impacts of the Trump Administration's lame duck rule making will be devastating if all of these rules remain in place," Grewal said in a new statement.

The state has now sued the EPA more than 30 times during Grewal's tenure.

An EPA spokeswoman declined comment.

Since losing the November election, the Trump administration has gone on a rule making spree in a final effort to reshape the nation's environmental protections.

Six new lawsuits target how the EPA regulates air pollutants, greenhouse gasses from airplanes, ozone standards and the processes it uses to create new rules.

Three complaints directed at other agencies allege the federal government is threatening endangered species, including migratory birds, and is weakening energy efficiency standards for home appliances.

New Jersey has initiated or joined at least 86 complaints against the federal government in the last three years, more than the state filed during the previous four decades, according to an updated NJ Advance Media analysis of court records and state data.

A federal appeals court also ruled against Trump on Tuesday, saying the administration acted illegally when it eased regulation of power plant air pollution.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.