

# The Star-Ledger

## **New Jersey sues Trump administration to stop smog from rolling in from other states**

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New Jersey sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Wednesday, arguing that regulators aren't doing enough to protect Garden State air from out-of-state pollution.

It was the Garden State's third lawsuit against the EPA in four months. It's all about a long-standing struggle over smog from other parts of the country that winds up in Jersey skies. The Sierra Club filed a similar suit with other environmental groups in February, according to court records.

The complaints target different air quality rules. The state attorney general's office argued Wednesday that the EPA wasn't moving fast enough to fix air pollution regulations, despite a court ordering them to do so.

"Enough is enough," state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement, adding "this is a serious environmental and public health problem, and it demands a serious response from Washington."

"High levels of ozone lead to more trips to the emergency room and more risk for people with heart problems and asthma," Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said in a statement.

About 100 people in the state die from asthma every year, according to New Jersey's health department.

Grewal's office filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York along with Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts and both New York city and state.

An EPA spokesperson said the agency didn't comment on pending litigation.

Critics of the federal government have already notched some victories.

A federal appeals court said late last year that a rule loosening the responsibility faced by some polluting states was illegal.

One of New Jersey's October lawsuits demanded that the EPA censure Pennsylvania and Virginia for failing to adopt plans to deal with pollution. Grewal's office withdrew that complaint last month, a spokesman said, because the EPA eventually agreed to New Jersey's demand.