States Sue EPA Over Clean Water Rule

A growing number of states are suing the Environment Protection Agency, claiming the agency’s revisions to the Clean Water Rule are an overreach of federal power. The agency released its final ruling on the Clean Water Act, also called the Water of the U.S. Rule, on May 27. The states and other organizations argue the new ruling gives the agency unprecedented authority over drainage ditches and nearly anything that contains water.

“This rule is a staggering overreach by the federal government and violates the very law it claims to enforce,” says West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey in the Washington Examiner.

The EPA says the rule was intended to simplify permitting processes and claims the revisions do not protect any new waters.

Thirteen states — Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming — filed in the U.S. District Court in Bismarck. West Virginia led a separate lawsuit including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin. And Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi filed a joint lawsuit in a Houston federal court.

Source: Washington Examiner, Alaska Dispatch News