

**EPA Commits To Final RMP Rollback Rule Before 2020:** A top EPA official is vowing that the agency will soon send for White House pre-publication review of its final rule to undo Obama-era changes that tightened facility safety risk management plan (RMP) requirements, a surprise move refuting environmentalists' suggestions that the rollback was "dead in the water." The comment came from EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) Deputy Assistant Administrator Steven Cook on August 2nd. The proposed version of the rollback would undo most of the Obama Administration's changes to the program, which generally require facilities to consider safer process, conduct third-party audits, and increase disclosures to local emergency planners. On [May 19, 2016, NRWA commented](#) on the proposal, arguing that, *"The RMP Rule imposes extensive new requirements on covered facilities and on state and local governments. While all of these new requirements are good ideas, they are all currently implemented by local governments to some degree. Local governments' concern with the proposed rule is the ambiguity in what determines compliance with the new requirements in the proposed rule. The issue involves a determination of who is authorized to decide on the content of each element of a risk management plan, whether the local government has the authority to design the content of the plan, or whether a federal regulator will implement a uniform compliance approach or rely on their subjective review. Implementing a uniform regulation for a plan that is dependent on unique local conditions, circumstances, and threats will result in a program that does not mandate certain communities to confront their greatest threats – and some communities addressing low priority or non-threatening risks."*

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