Environmental Integrity Project

Holding Polluters and Governments Accountable

Investigate. Inform. Improve.

Integrity is Our Middle Name

Our Mission:

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that empowers communities and protects public health and the environment by investigating polluters, holding them accountable under the law, and strengthening public policy.

Our work:

We were founded in 2002 by former EPA enforcement attorneys. Our team of environmental lawyers, analysts, journalists, a community outreach coordinator and others work on the following issues:

- **Oil & Gas**
- **Coal**
- **Chesapeake Bay**
- **Factory Farms**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **EPA Watch**
- **Wood Bioenergy**

EIP's attorneys assist economically disadvantaged communities to fight often David vs. Goliath battles against big polluters for clean air and water. We work on issues across the U.S., but have a special focus on the Chesapeake Bay region, Texas, and Western Pennsylvania.

SOME OF EIP'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

EPA WATCH

Our investigations helped force the resignation of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

EIP was the first organization to file Freedom of Information Act requests against the Trump EPA to obtain Administrator Scott Pruitt's travel and meeting records, which exposed his misspending, mismanagement, and cozy relationship with polluting industries. Our investigations sparked two federal probes of Pruitt by the EPA Office of Inspector General and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We released the documents to the news media—inspiring snowballing press coverage, more than 2,000 news stories, and contributing to Pruitt's resignation on July 5, 2018.

WATER POLLUTION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Pollution Reductions from the Poultry Industry and Potomac River Plant

In 2014, EIP investigated the records of 62 factory farms on Maryland's Eastern Shore and discovered that they were dumping three times more manure on farm fields than the crops needed for its phosphorus fertilizer content. Our report, along with the advocacy of allies, helped to pressure Governor Larry Hogan to impose long-delayed limits on manure overapplication. In 2015, litigation from EIP forced the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to reduce the amount of pollution pouring out of its Potomac River Filtration Plant by more than 2 million pounds a year.

MORE OF EIP'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

GAS INDUSTRY POLLUTION NATIONALLY

EPA to Propose Rule Requiring Hundreds of Natural Gas Processing Plants to Start Reporting Toxic Pollution

Prompted by a lawsuit by EIP and allied organizations, EPA in 2017 released regulations that will require natural gas processing plants to start reporting the toxic chemicals they release to a public database called the Toxic Release Inventory—improving transparency and corporate responsibility.

FOSSIL FUELS IN PENNSYLVANIA

EIP Teams up with Residents to Shut Down Leaky Coal Ash Waste Pond

Residents of Western Pennsylvania were plagued by soot and water pollution seeping from the largest coal ash waste pond in the U.S., called Little Blue Run. EIP's attorneys teamed up with the neighbors and convinced the state in 2014 to order a closure and a $169 million cleanup.

AIR POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS IN TEXAS

EIP and Partners Stop Two Proposed Coal Plants

Residents of two coastal Texas communities were worried about the air pollution that would be released by a pair of proposed coal-fired power plants. So EIP challenged the permits for the huge projects, and in 2012 a judge rejected the construction of the Las Brisas Energy Center in Corpus Christi. The next year, the developers of the Matagorda County plant dropped their plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN BALTIMORE

With EIP's Legal Help, Students Halt Construction of America's Largest Trash-Burning Incinerator

Residents of the south Baltimore neighborhood of Curtis Bay took to the streets in protest in 2013 when a New York-based developer proposed building America's largest trash burning incinerator not far from their high school. EIP attorney Leah Kelly worked with the students to challenge the permit for the Energy Answers plant, and state regulators terminated the permit in 2016, marking a major victory for the community.

COAL WASTEWATER AND ASH

EPA Issues Long-Overdue Regulations on Wastewater and Ash from Coal-Fired Power Plants

In 2010, EIP and allies sued EPA for failing to control water pollution from coal-fired power plants. The action resulted in the nation's first federal regulations to reduce toxic metals such as lead and mercury in waste-water. Our organization and partners also forced EPA to issue, in 2015, the nation's first federal rules on the disposal of coal ash waste in landfills and ponds.

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Photo on page 2 (of Houston family living near oil refinery) © Karen Kasmauski/ International League of Conservation Photographers; other photos by Tom Pelton and iStockphoto