

Regulations don't kill jobs. They keep jobs from killing workers and harming communities.

The jobs of hundreds of thousands of Steelworkers often come with serious safety and health concerns. Regulations offer us protection and hold our companies accountable. Far too often, the Administration has not agreed, and instead [has rolled back our protections](#). The latest attack comes from former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who launched an effort to gut a regulation that our union has championed.*

This effort will take workplaces that store large amounts of chemicals backwards:

- Rescinding accident prevention requirements such as root cause incident and near-miss investigations, safer technology assessments in certain high-hazard industries, and third-party audits.
- Scaling back requirements for facilities to coordinate with local emergency responders.
- Extending the timeline so the regulation won't be fully implemented until five years after it is finalized.
- Disproportionately impacting the safety and livelihoods of workers and communities in close proximity (primarily communities of color).

This has implications for many USW members, whether you work in steel, aluminum, paper, rubber, chemical, refining, or other industries that house large amounts of chemicals.

Here's How We Got Here

When a small fire turned into a large explosion at a fertilizer plant in tiny West, Texas, on April 17, 2013, the blast was so powerful it measured as a 2.1 magnitude earthquake, killing 15 and devastating the tiny town. This and separate refinery accidents at USW-represented facilities drove the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update regulations on risk management and how companies store and develop dangerous flammable chemicals. They were originally set to take effect in March 2017. Our union pushed hard at each step of the way.



But true to their recent track record of deregulation, the Administration gave corporations what they wanted. Pruitt delayed the regulation until 2019. Our union objected and joined with community groups to bring a lawsuit demanding the delay be overturned and the regulation implemented in an effort to save lives. Now we're facing this new effort to gut the regulation.

Stay tuned to see what you can do to help get this important regulation implemented. An ActionCall will be coming early next week.

*Update 7/6/18: The push to gut the Chemical Disaster Rule is continuing despite Scott Pruitt's resignation.