

No Hurry to Prevent Chemical Disasters

The decision, at the behest of chemical industry, to delay for two years (while they are "studied") the new chemical plant health and safety rules promulgated (after three years of negotiations and compromise) in the waning days of the Obama administration, is emblematic of the sandbagging tactic being used by the Trump-Pruitt EPA to effectively remove environmental protections by the agency EPA head Pruitt has said he believes should be eliminated.

Meanwhile people are put in harm's way, the environment is plundered and profits are increased.

As a member for several years of the public advisory committee of the Chemical Manufacturers Association (now renamed the American Chemical Council), and as for a time Emergency Services Director charged with developing and implementing the emergency response plan for my county, I became uncomfortably familiar with the many serious risks refineries and other chemical plants present to workers, fence-line communities and the environment--risks in many cases easily corrected but for corporate resistance and an industry-wide anti-regulation culture, risks that in many cases could be eliminated simply by the updating of responder-worker-public inter-communication practices and technology as required by the rules now being sandbagged.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/40631-by-delaying-chemical-safety-rule-pruitt-endangers-first-responders-and-refinery-towns>]