

May 2002

The Bush administration approves regulations that will allow mining companies to dump waste into rivers, streams, and valleys. The rule eases regulations for the highly destructive practice of mountaintop mining.

July 2002

Despite his own State Department's report that found no violations of the UNFPA program, Bush withholds \$34 million in family planning aid pledged by Congress, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and even the President himself.

March 2003

The Bush administration guts a key section of the Clean Air Act, the New Source Review, which required industrial sites to install modern pollution controls when upgrading their facilities. The new rules will allow 17,000 industrial facilities to make major plant upgrades without installing pollution controls.⁷

October 2003

The Bush administration scraps the limits on the amount of land that can be used for dumping mining waste, giving mining companies carte blanche to dump waste rock on as much public land as they want.⁸

December 2003

The Bush administration finalizes the opening of 300,000 acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest, our nation's only temperate rain forest, to loggers and other developers.

January 2004

A Bush administration proposal to regulate mercury emissions lifts at least a dozen paragraphs, some verbatim, from memos prepared by an advocacy group and a law firm that represent major utilities and energy companies. Not surprisingly, the proposal weakens current standards established by the Clean Air Act.¹¹

July 2004

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Venemen scraps the Roadless Rule, instituted by President Clinton, which protected almost 60 million acres of national forest from road building, logging, and other development.

November 2004

In 1987 the United States and 175 other countries agreed to end the manufacture and use of methyl bromide, a pesticide that depletes the ozone layer and causes cancer, by 2005. The Bush administration fought for and won a one-year exemption from the treaty and will allow methyl bromide production to increase in 2005. The administration filed for more exemptions to the treaty than all other nations combined.¹³

January 2005

Christie Todd Whitman releases her new book, *It's My Party Too*, in which she describes her participation in Dick Cheney's energy task force as "an eye-opening encounter with just how obsessed so many of those in the energy industry, and in the Republican Party, have become with doing away with environmental regulation."¹⁵

2003

2004

2005

May 2002

The Bush administration slashes emission standards for air conditioners. According to the EPA, which argued against the change, the increase in annual electricity use that will result from the new regulation is equal to the amount of electricity used by 7.4 million households in a year.⁵

February 2003

The Bush administration reverses a phase-out of snowmobiles from Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, despite the fact that a \$2.4 million study carried out by its own National Parks Service found that prohibiting snowmobiles "best preserves the unique historic, cultural, and natural resources" in the parks.⁶

August 2003

The EPA rules that carbon dioxide emissions are not pollutants, and therefore the agency does not have the authority to regulate them.

November 2003

The Bush administration announces a new draft policy that will permit partially treated sewage to be blended with treated sewage and released into waterways during heavy rain, allowing viruses and parasites into the nation's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.⁹

January 2004

Interior Secretary Gale Norton opens nearly nine million acres of wilderness area in Alaska's North Slope to oil exploration and drilling. The land, which lies adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, holds only about six month's worth of recoverable oil that will take at least 10 years to get to market.¹⁰

February 2004

Bush's proposed budget for 2005 slashes funding for environmental programs by \$1.9 billion, down 5.9 percent from 2004. Bush calls for significant cuts to EPA research, waste treatment programs, and the wetlands reserve program.

October 2004

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) reports that the number of civil lawsuits filed by the government against polluters during the first three years of the Bush administration dropped 75 percent compared to the last three years of the Clinton administration. Eric Schaeffer, head of the EIP, resigns from the EPA in protest of the administration's lax environmental policies.¹²

January 2005

Bush nominates Sam Bodman, who ran the Cabot Corporation between 1988 and 2000, to be his new Secretary of Energy. The Cabot Corporation has been one of Texas' top five polluters for years.¹⁴

March 2005

The Senate votes in favor of opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. *The Washington Post* says, "Longtime Bush Goal for Alaskan Wildlife Refuge Closer to Reality."¹⁶