MARYLAND MUNICIPAL STORMWATER ASSOCIATION

EPA Surpasses President Trump's 2-for-1 Deregulatory Goals
October 2019

According to a new report by EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG), EPA claimed the top spot among federal agencies following the deregulatory agenda set out by President Trump's "two-for-one" executive order (EO 13711) intended to cut regulations and reduce compliance costs. The EO requires that for each new regulation issued, at least two prior regulations be identified for elimination. EPA exceeded deregulatory goals by cutting 26 environmental regulations and issuing just four new ones throughout President Trump's first two years in office. Between fiscal years 2017-2018, the agency reported saving nearly $97 million in deregulatory actions. Some of the agency's most cost-saving deregulatory actions over those two years include delaying water pollution limits for coal-burning power plants, increasing regulatory flexibility and decreasing monitoring for coal ash waste site operators, and implementing user fees for its electronic hazardous waste tracking system.

Environmentalists and others have been critical of the EO and are seeking to have it overturned in court. The EO also calls for no net increase in regulatory burdens.