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Statement by the President on the Clean Water Rule

May 26, 2015

For more than 40 years, American families and businesses across the country have counted on the Clean Water Act to protect the streams and wetlands we rely on for our way of life – from recreation to public health to a growing economy. In recent years, however, court decisions have led to uncertainty and a need for clarification. One in three Americans now gets drinking water from streams lacking clear protection, and businesses and industries that depend on clean water face uncertainty and delay, which costs our economy every day. Too many of our waters have been left vulnerable to pollution. That's why I called on the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clear up the confusion and uphold our basic duty to protect these vital resources.

Today, after extensive input from the American public, they're doing just that – finalizing the Clean Water Rule to restore protection for the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of our nation's water resources, without getting in the way of farming, ranching, or forestry. This rule will provide the clarity and certainty businesses and industry need about which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act, and it will ensure polluters who knowingly threaten our waters can be held accountable. My Administration has made historic commitments to clean water, from restoring iconic watersheds like the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes to preserving more than a thousand miles of rivers and other waters for future generations. With today's rule, we take another step towards protecting the waters that belong to all of us.

Source: The White House. Office of Press Secretary. "Statement by the President on the Clean Water Rule." News release, May 26, 2015.
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/05/26/statement-president-clean-water-rule>.