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A DEEP CLIMATE, HEALTH IMPACT

Like Reagan, Trump is cutting environmental regulations

Barbara Kates-Garnick Tufts University | THE CONVERSATION

When the Trump administration announced it was moving to eliminate dozens of U.S. climate policies, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin said he was sending “a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion.” • That drive – to both repeal environmental regulations and cast doubt on science – reflects the Trump administration’s approach to environment policy. • Deregulation has long been a key theme in Republican environmental policy. The conflict between the obligation to protect public health and the desire to boost markets traces back to former President Ronald Reagan’s administration. Reagan’s perspective that government is not a solution to problems, but is the problem instead, set the stage for Republican administrations that followed.

Reagan argued that the growth of government spending and business regulation had stymied economic prosperity. Environmental regulations were a prime target.

Forty years later, America is seeing many of the same concepts in President Donald Trump’s administration. However, its strategy could have a greater effect than Reagan ever envisioned.

Slashing budgets and staffing

There are many ways to kneecap government agencies: Instituting massive budget cuts, cutting staff with critical functions and appointing leadership whose goal is limiting the reach and effectiveness of

See IMPACT, Page 6A

Steven Cook, a Trump appointee, once represented chemical companies that are fighting a rule that would require them to clean up PFAS pollution. He has now proposed scrapping the rule, The New York Times reports.

AT TOP: Former President Ronald Reagan and President Donald Trump have taken similar approaches to the EPA, although with different levels of intensity.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FERNANDO HERNANDEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK; SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Inner Harbor desal back on agenda

Council to mull several water supply solutions

Kirsten Crow
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The controversial Inner Harbor desalination plant — put on an indefinite hold in September — is returning to Corpus Christi City Council discussion.

The future of the facility is among a slew of water supply projects listed on the agenda for a workshop scheduled for Oct. 3.

The estimated \$1.2 billion endeavor, planned to generate as much as 30 million gallons of treated water per day, was paused after a council majority voted Sept. 3 to turn down a contract extension with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.

See DESAL, Page 5A

Parties trade blame for shutdown

Joey Garrison and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Democrats have no idea how long the government shutdown will last. Talk to Republicans, they say.

Ask Republicans, and they point the finger back at Democrats.

Vice President JD Vance said he thinks the shutdown could be over soon. But that’s a “pure guess.”

Only one fact was undisputed: The federal government’s 15th shutdown since 1981 entered Day Two on Oct. 2.

Senators left town until Oct. 3 to observe the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday, meaning the first shutdown since 2019 would last one more day at minimum. Yet a drawn-out shutdown lasting several more days became an increasing possibility as President Donald Trump, his Republican allies in Congress and

See SHUTDOWN, Page 5A


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