Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.
Off-the-record introductory meeting with Judd Berger, FoxNews.com
Time: 3:00 – 3:20 p.m.
Location: EPA Administrator's office
Reporter: Judd Berger
Outlet: FoxNews.com
Topics: Introduction, Energy Independence Executive Order, First 100 days
Contact: Judson.Berger@FOXNEWS.COM, 301-395-7063

Reporter bio

Judd Berger is the senior politics editor and lead writer for FoxNews.com based in Washington. He has worked for Fox for more than nine years and attended University of Maryland College Park.

Recent stories:
AHCA: Republican health care bill headed for overhaul in Senate
Gorsuch confirmed to Supreme Court
Trump, in speech to Congress, calls to 'restart the engine' of US economy

FIRST 100 DAYS:

- EPA was the poster child for regulatory overreach in the Obama Administration.
- Since being sworn in, I have spearheaded over 22 significant regulatory reform actions.
- EPA is at the forefront of President Trump's vision to rollback regulations, save American jobs and promote economic growth.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE EXECUTIVE ORDER

- Following the President's Energy Independence EO, I signed four notices to review and, if appropriate, to revise or rescind major, economically significant, burdensome rules the last Administration issued.
- This includes the so-called Clean Power Plan that **threatens 400,000 U.S. jobs**.

TOP JOB NUMBERS:

- **Jobs: Over 1.4 million jobs threatened by the actions of the old administration.**
- **Overall Regulatory Impact: $204 billion from the old EPA's regulatory actions.**
- **Clean Power Plan: 400,000 jobs threatened.**
- **CAFE standards: 1.1 million jobs**
- **ELG Rule: 100 jobs saved at a chemical processing plant in Florida.**

EXAMPLES:

- **ELG** – Costs about $480 million annually, $1.2 billion per year in the first five years.
- **Hard Rock Mining** – Could cost American businesses $171 million annually.
- **CCR rule** – Costs power plants between $500 and $745 million – per year.
- **CAFE** – 1.1 million jobs, $200 billion by 2025 to comply.
- **WOTUS** – Between $600 million and $1.2 billion.
- **Methane ICR** – Compliance costs exceeding $42 million.
- **RMP Rule** – Costs about $131.8 million annually, $1.3 billion over ten years.

OBAMA EPA:

- When it comes to protecting our water, Flint is why Obama's EPA let us down.
- When it comes to closing down contaminated Superfund sites, we inherited over 1,300 sites; the Obama Administration only cleaned up a handful.
- When it comes to commonsense regulations, the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the United States rule is why Obama's EPA let us down.
- Obama's own administration said they dropped the ball at Gold King Mine. The release resulted in three million gallons of water with acid mine drainage containing heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury spilling into the river and turning it yellow.
- When it comes to efficiently utilizing taxpayers' money, there are numerous examples of EPA employees wasting time and taxpayer money, with no punishment from Obama's EPA.

EPA SUCCESSES: NEW LEADERSHIP IS HERE

- What environmental successes can the last administration point to?
    - They only cleaned up a handful of 1300 contaminated sites, and got them off the Superfund list.
    - There wasn't much done on air attainment. 140 million people live in non-attainment today. Where was the past administration on fixing that?
    - Look at the water problems in Flint, Michigan. Look at East Chicago. The past administration doesn't have much to point to.
- What are we doing? **Getting back to the core, back to the basics.** Let's focus on air attainment, improving the quality of air for our citizens. Let's invest in water infrastructure; actually make cleaning up Superfunds a priority.
    - From Portland to St. Louis – let's clean up these Superfund sites so people can live and work in a healthy community.
- The environmentalists on the left are saying that we are creating an absence of regulation. That isn't true.

CO2

- We are at pre-1994 levels for our CO2 footprint, we have reduced air pollutants by 65 percent since 1980.
- People spent eight years talking about things. It's time we started doing things.
- Who denies the climate? It exists, it is warming. There is some measure of human

activity that contributes to that warming trend – but we don't know with precision how much we contribute. The bigger question is: What can we do about it? What does the Clean Air Act say, with how we can address those issues?

CLEAN AIR ACT

- If you ask both Democrats and Republicans who were involved in the amendments to the Clean Air Act, they will tell you that none of them thought that the amendments passed in 1990 were intended to address the global phenomenon. They were for local and regional air pollution. They were to address local issues.

OBAMA EPA & CO2

- Congress has never spoken on this issue. You have Massachusetts v. EPA in 2007, and the endangerment finding in 2009. Our obligation at EPA – an executive branch agency – is to enforce the laws passed by Congress. If congress hasn't spoken, we can't make it up.
- The Obama Administration tried twice to regulate CO2. They are zero-for-two. They struck out twice. The first time was the Tailoring Rule and the second time was the Clean Power Plan.
- The Obama Administration struck out twice. What did the old Administration accomplish? I would ask my friends on the environmental left.
- The question is out there. What did the old Administration do to address that? They got sued, and they lost. That's what they did.