

U.S. Court of Appeals Sides With North Carolina and Others, Blocks EPA's Rules Over More Waterways

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Thirty states are declaring victory over the Environmental Protection Agency's latest regulatory push, owing to a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that blocks implementation of new EPA rules over waterways across the country.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit put on hold the Waters of the United States, or WOTUS rule.

States such as North Carolina have argued the rule would hurt farmers and is an example of federal government overreach. Because of the court ruling, the EPA is barred from enforcing the rule.

"North Carolina has cleared the first hurdle in preventing the federal government from imposing excessive, unnecessary regulations on the state's agricultural industry and land development," said Secretary of Environmental Quality Donald van der Vaart in a statement. "Many of North Carolina's water quality programs go beyond federal requirements and have contributed to steady water quality improvement throughout the state. There is no reason for the federal government to usurp a state's regulatory authority, especially given our strong record of environmental protection, or intrude on the rights of private property owners."