

# *Trump Freezes EPA Contracts and Imposes Gag Order on Agency*

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Washington, January 25 (RHC)-- The Donald Trump administration has forced the Environmental Protection Agency to freeze all grants and contracts -- threatening to disrupt key operations of the agency, including the cleanup of toxic sites and routine water quality testing.

Trump's administration has also imposed a media blackout on the agency, prohibiting the EPA from issuing press releases, publishing blog updates or even posting information on social media.

As the news of the EPA media blackout broke Tuesday, the Twitter account for the Badlands National Park in South Dakota, part of the U.S. National Park Service, went rogue, publishing a series of tweets about climate change, including one that read: "Today, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is higher than at any time in the last 650,000 years. #Climate." The tweets were later deleted.

Trump has also signed an executive order imposing a sweeping hiring freeze for all federal agencies, except for military and national security.

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