

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 843

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2019

Mr. GIBBS (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. ROUZER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

---

## A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reforming EPA Per-  
5 mitting Authority Act” or the “Reform EPA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404(c) of the Federal  
3 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) by striking “(c)” and inserting “(c)(1)”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by in-  
7 serting “during the period described in paragraph  
8 (2) and” before “after notice and opportunity for  
9 public hearings”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2)(A) The period during which the Adminis-  
12 trator may prohibit the specification (including the  
13 withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as  
14 a disposal site, or deny or restrict the use of any de-  
15 fined area for specification (including the withdrawal  
16 of specification) as a disposal site, under paragraph  
17 (1) shall—

18 “(i) begin on the date that the Secretary  
19 provides notice to the Administrator that the  
20 Secretary has completed all procedures for  
21 processing an application for a permit under  
22 this section relating to the specification and is  
23 ready to determine, in accordance with the  
24 record and applicable regulations, whether the  
25 permit should be issued; and

1                   “(ii) end on the date that the Secretary  
2                   issues the permit.

3                   “(B) The Secretary shall ensure that the period  
4                   described in subparagraph (A) consists of not fewer  
5                   than 30 consecutive days.

6                   “(C) The Secretary may issue a permit under  
7                   this section only after the Secretary provides notice  
8                   to the Administrator in accordance with this para-  
9                   graph.”.

10                  (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
11                  section (a) shall apply to a permit application submitted  
12                  under section 404(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
13                  trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(a)) after the date of enactment  
14                  of this Act.

○