

NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE

EPA Abandons Farm-Dust Regulations

October 18, 2011 4:17 P.M.

By Robert VerBruggen

Walter Olson [has the story](#) at Cato:

The [Environmental Protection](#) Agency is now backing off a whole series of deeply unpopular Obama-era initiatives. [This time](#) it's the idea of tightening the federal standard for coarse [airborne](#) particulates — better known as “dust” — from the current 150 micrograms per cubic meter to a figure somewhere between 65 and 85, depending on what assumptions are used. That change could have dealt a tough economic blow to businesses, notably farms and ranches, that kick up quantities of dirt in the ordinary [course](#) of operation. Unfortunately, the EPA — unable to resist the urge to lash out against its critics — is being less than candid about its latest turnabout.

For background, read [this piece of mine](#) from February.