



## Environmental Data and Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Access Assessment Follow-up Report

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### Missing Environmental Protection Agency Endangerment Finding Web Resources

*This report confirms the website errors and missing web resources described in the following article, but clarifies that these resources have been missing for an extended period of time:*

["Endangerment finding documents disappear from website"](#)

**Published by E&E News**

July 12, 2017

Writing and review of this report was conducted and overseen by the members of EDGI's Website Monitoring Committee: Maya Anjur-Dietrich, Andrew Bergman, Gretchen Gehrke, and Toly Rinberg.

**ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION DISCLAIMER** - *This confirmation report has gone through an abbreviated vetting procedure in order to quickly follow-up on changes to websites that were published in a news article.*

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## Missing Environmental Protection Agency Endangerment Finding Web Resources

Web resources were removed from the “Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act” [page](#) on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website, following the EPA’s climate change website overhaul. Until July 11, the “Endangerment” page did not link to materials like the “Technical Support Document for the Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases” page and the “Legal Basis of the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding” page.

This report evaluates the reported lack of access to web resources in the E&E News article “[Endangerment finding documents disappear from website.](#)” We can confirm that the web resources mentioned in the article were not available from the current “Endangerment” page on [July 11, 2017 at 1:55pm ET](#). This unavailability, however, was not due to a more recent removal of content, as may be inferred from the original reporting by E&E News. Between May 9 and July 11, in fact, the resources on the “Endangerment” page were not accessible. Following the release of the E&E News article, the [EPA updated the “Endangerment” page on July 11](#), restoring access to the appropriate web resources.

### Description of Access to Web Resources:

1. As late as [July 11, 2017 at 1:55pm ET](#), the EPA’s “Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act” [page](#) included a link to the URL <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/technical-support-document-endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse> from the text “Technical Support Documents for the Findings.” At that time this URL lead to a dead “Page Not Found” page, stored [here](#) in the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. Other links on the page also did not function, although a comprehensive list has not been compiled.
  - a. At some point between [May 17](#) and [June 23](#), the associated URL was changed by replacing the “[/climatechange/](#)” path segment with “[/climate-change/](#).” Neither URL currently directs to the “Technical Support ...” document.
  - b. According to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine, the “Endangerment” page hosted on the “epa.gov/ghgemissions” subdomain was live as early as [May 9, 2017](#).
  - c. During the entire period between [May 9, 2017 at 3:55pm ET](#) and [July 11, 2017 at 1:55pm ET](#), as the website overhaul has proceeded, the “Technical Support ...” document was not linked from the “Endangerment” page.
2. Prior to the [EPA’s climate change website overhaul](#), which began on April 28, 2017, an identical or very similar version of the “Endangerment” page was hosted on the “epa.gov/climatechange” subdomain at the URL <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-finding>

[s-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a](#). The page linked from this URL was live as late as [April 27, 2017](#), after which the URL began redirecting to a [notice page](#) as a result of the overhaul.

- a. Many resources linked from that page, including the "[Technical Support Document ...](#)" page at the URL <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange/technical-support-document-findings>, were also hosted on the "/climatechange/" subdomain and now redirect to the notice page.
3. The [January 19 snapshot](#)<sup>1</sup> for the "Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under the Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act" page contains working links to the "[Technical Support Document ...](#)" page and other resources, also hosted on the January 19 snapshot.
4. Another page titled "Technical Support Documents for the Findings," which is very similar to the pre-April 28 version of the page and the January 19 snapshot page, described in #2 and #3, respectively, above (an analysis of the overlap in page content has not been concluded), was live on [July 11, 2017 at 2:55pm ET](#) at the URL <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/technical-support-document-endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse>
  - a. The difference between this URL and the URL that directs to the dead page in #1 is only that the "/climate-change/" path segment has been replaced by the "/ghgemissions/" segment.
  - b. According to the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, the last known time the URL <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change> contained a live page was [Nov 27, 2016](#). It directed to a dead page on [May 15, 2017](#). We cannot confirm a more precise date for the page removal at this time.
5. As of [July 11, 2017 at 4:25pm ET](#), the EPA has updated the "Endangerment" page, and it appears that they have resolved the access issues detailed above, fixing all broken links. In particular, the path segment "/climate-change/" was changed to "/ghgemissions/" for many of the link URLs on the page.
  - a. For example, the following URL on the "Endangerment" page at the URL <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/technical-support-document-endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse> does direct to the live "[Technical Support Document for the Findings](#)" page.
  - b. We have yet to find a page on the <https://www.epa.gov> website that links to the "Endangerment" page. This page may not be accessible from any other page in the website.

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<sup>1</sup> On February 15, the EPA posted a "mirror" or "[snapshot](#)" of its website as it existed on [January 19](#), the day before Trump's inauguration