

[LIVE](#)
[DAILY NEWS](#)
[NPR 24 Hour Program Stream](#)

[LIVE](#)
[ON AIR NOW](#)

[MY PLAYLIST](#)



DONATE

CLIMATE

EPA announces dozens of environmental regulations it plans to target

MARCH 12, 2025 · 7:28 PM ET

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

By Michael Copley, Jeff Brady, Camila Domonoske

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time, by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

By clicking "Accept All," you allow us to use cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing experience and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalized advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience measurement, and website usage development.



List of Partners (service providers or vendors)

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on his nomination in January.

Ting Shen/AFP/Getty Images

Manage Preferences

Reject All

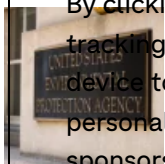
The Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to target more than two dozen rules and policies in what the agency called the "most consequential day of deregulation in U.S. history."

Accept All

The EPA didn't provide details about what it wants to do with the regulations — whether it will try to weaken them or eliminate them entirely. In most cases, the agency said it is reconsidering rules that apply to things like climate pollution from vehicles and power plants, wastewater from coal plants and air pollution from the energy and manufacturing sectors.

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.



THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

Editor's Note: EPA says it will roll back climate rules. That could prove complicated

The list the agency put out is a "roadmap" of the regulations it will try to roll back in the coming year, says Jason Rylander, legal director of the Climate Law Institute at the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group.

We and our partners process data to provide:
 - Actively scan device characteristics for identification.
 - Store and/or access information on a device.
 - Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

"This EPA is planning to take a wrecking ball to environmental law as we know it," he says. "The intent appears to be to neuter EPA's ability to address climate change and to limit air pollution that affects public health."

The EPA said in an email to NPR that it doesn't have additional information to share about its plans for changing or repealing environmental regulations.

"We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring

auto jobs back to the U.S. and more," EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said in a news release.

Rylander says the agency didn't have to release a list of rules it plans to challenge. "But they've made clear that they intend to start that process," he says.

Overhauling federal environmental regulations requires a so-called rulemaking process that usually takes a couple of years, Rylander says.

"But we've seen that this administration wants to move with a speed that we have not often seen," he adds. "I suspect that you'll start seeing proposed rules coming out in a much more rapid fashion."

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Any effort by the EPA to rollback environmental rules will almost certainly face

legal challenges. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

"EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin today announced plans for the greatest increase in pollution in decades," Amanda Leland, executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund, said in a statement. "The result will be more toxic chemicals, more cancers, more asthma attacks, and more dangers for pregnant women and their children. Rather than helping our economy, it will create chaos."

Leland said her group "will vigorously oppose Administrator Zeldin's unlawful attack on the public health of the American people that seeks to tear down life-saving clean air standards – putting millions of people in harm's way."

EPA says it's reconsidering rules for power plant emissions

The EPA says it will reconsider rules finalized under the Biden administration that limit climate pollution from power plants.

Power plants are the second biggest source of planet-heating greenhouse gasses behind transportation, according to the EPA. Under the regulations, existing coal and new natural gas-fired power plants that run more than 40% of the time would have to eliminate 90% of their carbon dioxide emissions, the main driver of global warming.

The rules followed a 2022 Supreme Court ruling that limited the EPA's options for regulating power plant emissions. Justices said that without a specific law, the agency cannot force the entire power generation industry to move away from fossil fuels toward less-polluting energy sources. So, instead, the EPA under the Biden administration created regulations governing individual power plants.

When the new rules were finalized last year, Manish Bapna, chief executive of the Natural Resources Defense Council, predicted they would "drive up investment, innovation, and good jobs in the clean energy economy of the future" and give industry the certainty it needs to meet growing demand in the cleanest, cheapest, most reliable way possible.

However, some in the utility industry warned the restrictions would threaten electric reliability.

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

"The path outlined by the EPA today is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable," Jim Matheson, chief executive of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in a statement at the time.

Zeldin said in a news release on Wednesday that the EPA is "seeking to ensure that the agency follows the rule of law while providing all Americans with access to reliable and affordable energy."

Pollution from cars and trucks is also on EPA's list

President Trump has made it a priority to roll back the Biden administration's multi-pronged push supporting the transition to electric vehicles. Changing EPA standards limiting air pollution from vehicle tailpipes is a crucial part of that agenda.

Former president Barack Obama toughened fuel economy and EPA vehicle emission standards. During Trump's first term, automakers had lobbied for looser rules, but were caught off guard by how dramatically Trump rolled them back. The next few years were chaotic: some automakers struck a voluntary deal with California to keep meeting their stricter rules even if it wasn't legally necessary.

Under the Biden administration, the standards grew stricter over time with rules designed to accelerate a transition to EVs. The current EPA standards do not mandate a certain number of EVs, but they set emissions rules so strict that automakers would essentially have to manufacture a large portion of vehicles without emissions as much as two-thirds of the vehicles sold by 2032 — in order to meet the rules.

We and our partners process data to provide: With EV sales growth slowing, some automakers have wondered if that is still feasible and called for the rules to be adjusted. But the industry is also frustrated with the whipsawing of regulations back and forth, which makes it difficult to plan future products. In a statement Wednesday, the trade group representing automakers called for a "balanced approach."

Environmental and public health groups support the more aggressive standards, which reduce pollution that causes asthma and heart disease as well as fighting climate change. So do consumer advocacy groups: the EPA had also estimated the new rules could save drivers up to a trillion dollars in gasoline over the life of the

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices
We use cookies to enhance your browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable the tracking technologies, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our website.
For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.
By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and analytics technologies, and information on your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

rules. But many critics, including the oil industry, have said the rules undermine consumer choice by favoring EVs.

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time

EPA says it's rethinking whether climate pollution endangers public health

Underlying a lot of the EPA's actions on climate change is a 2009 determination that greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide and methane threaten public health.

The EPA now says it will reconsider that so-called endangerment finding, as well as actions the agency took that were based on the determination.

Daren Bakst, director of the Center for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, said in an email to NPR that the EPA has used the endangerment finding to try to "control large portions of the economy."

We and our partners process data to provide:

If the EPA determines that the endangerment finding is no longer applicable, Bakst says it "would preclude future greenhouse gas regulations." It could also pave the way to repeal some existing rules, he says.

However, environmental groups say it won't be easy for the EPA to scrap its determination that greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change. The science showing the warming impact of those emissions has only gotten stronger since the Supreme Court authorized the agency in 2007 to regulate greenhouse gas emissions if it finds that they contribute to climate change.

"The state of climate science has evolved significantly since the endangerment finding first came out," says Rylander, legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "I can't imagine anyone being able to conclude, on the basis of current science, that greenhouse gas pollution does not affect climate and public health. So I'm somewhat baffled that they think they're going to be able to eliminate it and have that stand up in court."

Rachel Cleetus, policy director with the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, agrees.

"We're seeing climate related disasters mount catastrophically," Cleetus says.

"We've seen loss of life from wildfires and extremely intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts. We're seeing so much economic damage from these kinds of extreme climate related disasters."

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our partners store and access personal data like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

The utility industry has also raised concerns about getting rid of the endangerment finding. In a filing to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Edison Electric Institute (EII), a group that represents electric utilities, said allowing the EPA to regulate climate pollution creates an orderly system for cutting emissions while minimizing economic impacts on consumers and businesses. Rolling back the agency's authority could expose companies to a flurry of environmental lawsuits, the group said. "This would be chaos."

The EPA has repeatedly reaffirmed the endangerment finding, and in 2022, Congress included language in the Inflation Reduction Act that labels greenhouse gases as pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Conrad Schneider, senior director for the U.S. at the Clean Air Task Force, said in a statement: "This signal to deregulate air pollution is diametrically opposed to the obligation the EPA has to protect public health."

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting **Accept All** enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under **Accept All** for stories that help you understand your world —

provides **Reject All** or **Close** with **Reject All**, your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this

menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the **Cookie Settings & Opt Out** link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website.

For more details, refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

You are the "public" in public media. Can we count on you to support this essential "public resource" today?

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

[DONATE →](#)

We and our partners process data to provide:

Active user device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

More Stories From NPR



STATE OF THE WORLD FROM NPR

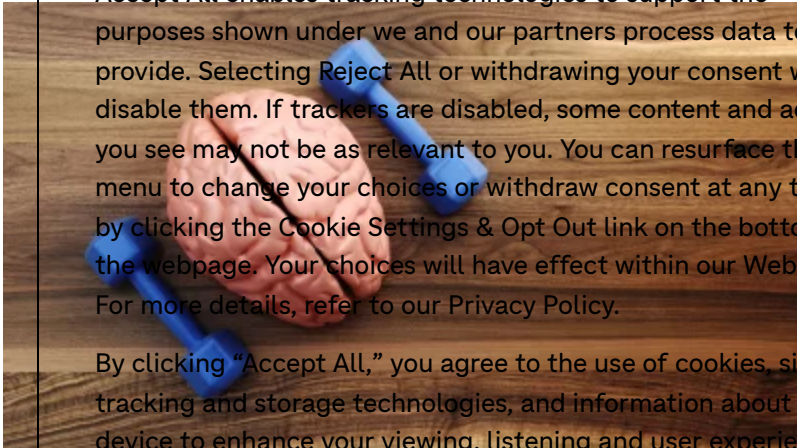
Is the U.S. threatening to commit war crimes in Iran? : State of the World from NPR



Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

POP CULTURE HAPPY HOUR

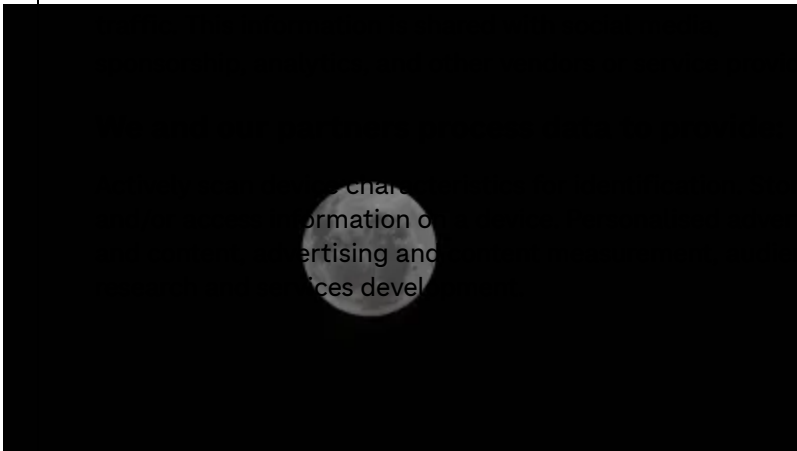
The embarrassing truth of dating men : Pop Culture Happy Hour



We and our 483 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience,

This form of mental exercise may cut dementia risk for decades



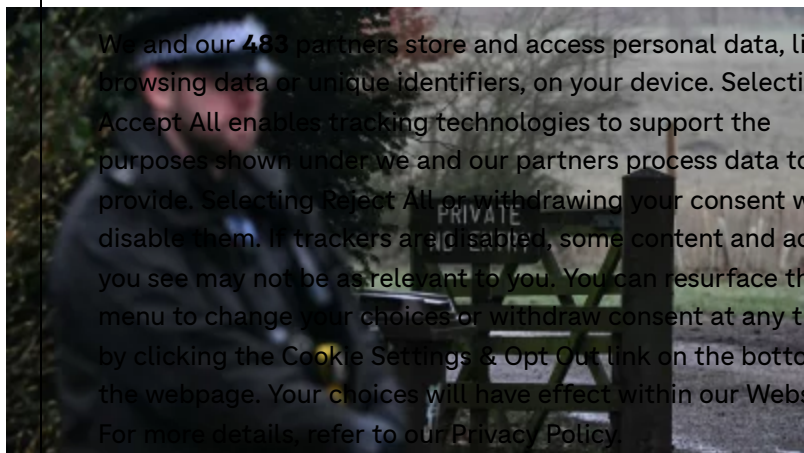
SPACE

What can Artemis II astronauts see that satellites haven't captured?



CODE SWITCH

Trump shared a racist "joke." That humor is an American tradition : Code Switch
Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices



CONSIDER THIS FROM NPR

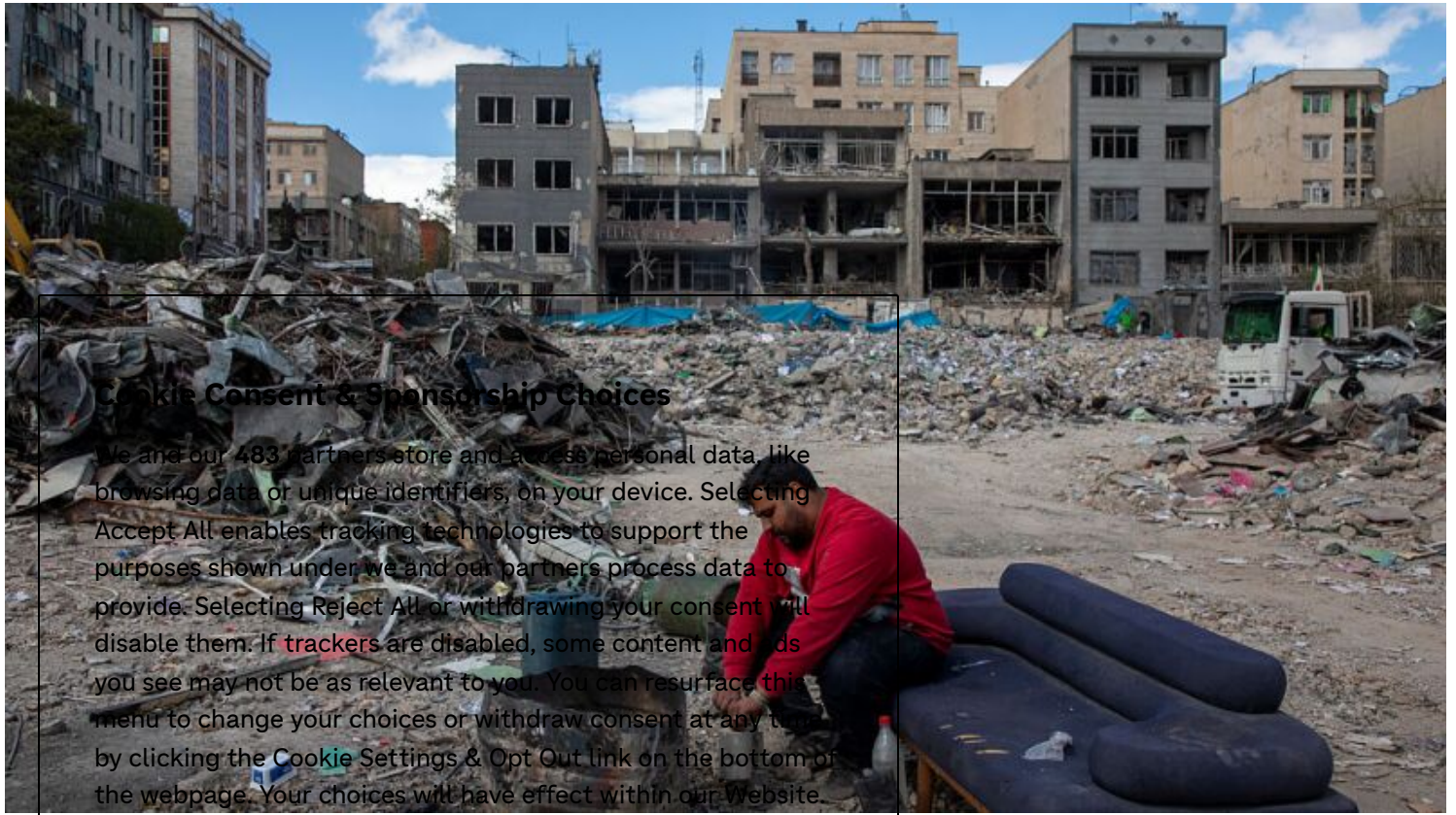
Ex-Prince Andrew is arrested. What now? : Consider This from NPR

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

Popular on NPR.org



Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our 483 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT [Learn more](#) to our Privacy Policy.

U.S. and Iran agree to 2-week ceasefire, suspending Trump's threat to annihilate Iran

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

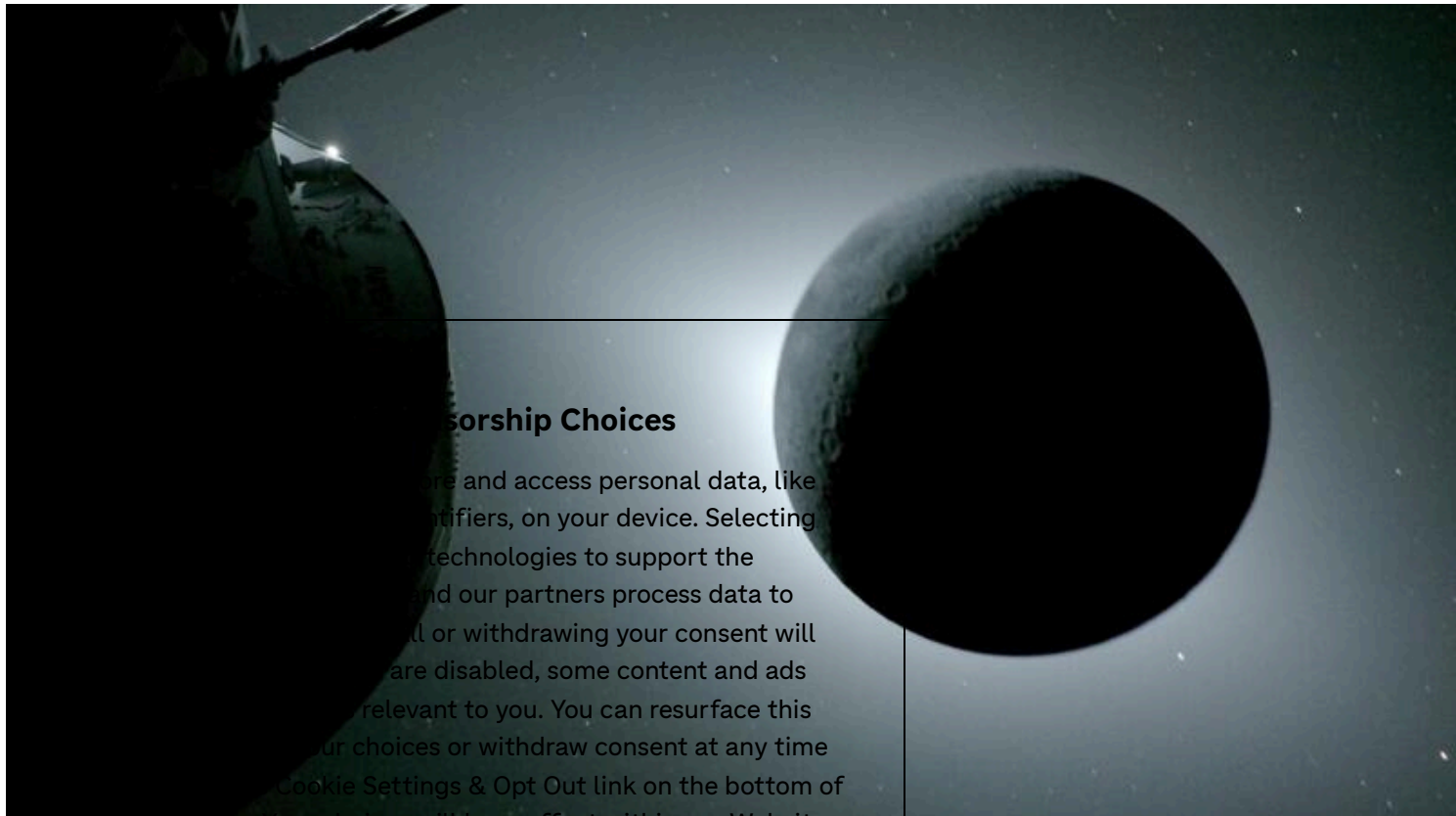
We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.



TECHNOLOGY

ICE acknowledges it is using powerful spyware



Consent and Preference Center

we may use cookies to collect and access personal data, like your name and email address, device identifiers, on your device. Selecting your preferences will allow us to use technologies to support the operation of our Website and our partners process data to enhance your experience. If you do not allow us to use cookies, some of our services may not function properly. If you do not consent, some content and ads may not be displayed, and some features may not be relevant to you. You can resurface this message at any time by clicking on our choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking on our Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of

the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website.

For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

The Artemis II crew saw parts of the moon never seen before. Here's what they said

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar



THE PICTURE SHOW

Photos: NASA releases first images from moon flyby



Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

Accept All enable tracking technologies for the purposes shown under we and our partner's purposes to provide. Select Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and you see may not be as relevant to you. You can return to this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time.

HEALTH

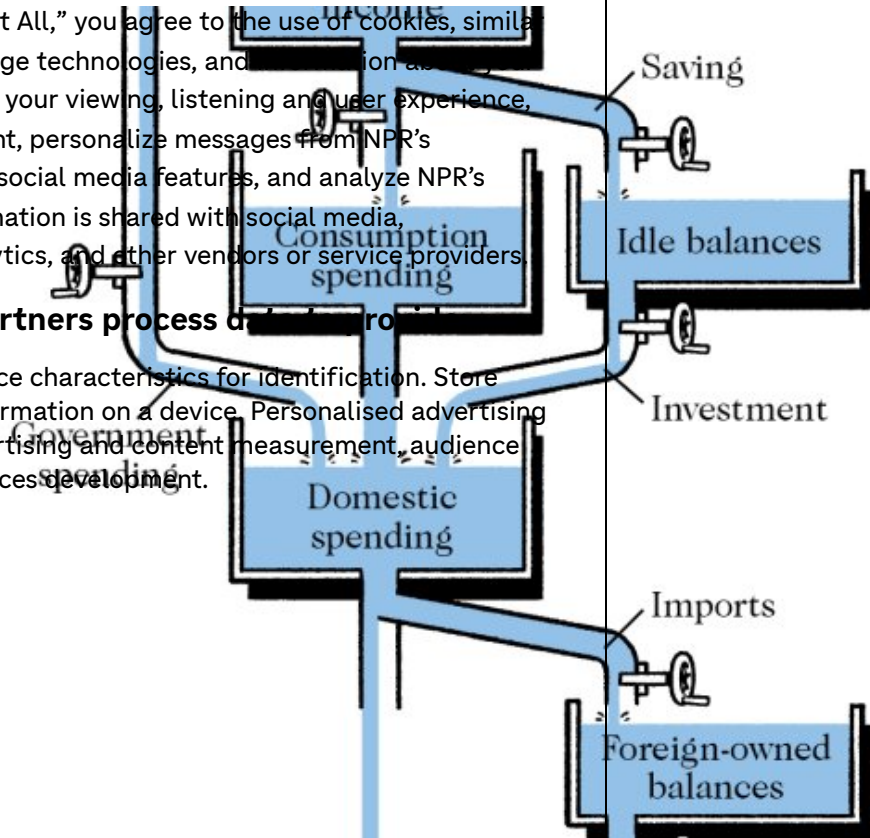
Telehealth abortion will remain available for now, after a federal judge's ruling

For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information on your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data for the following purposes:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.



PLANET MONEY NEWSLETTER

How Bill Phillips used flowing water to model the economy

NPR Editors' Picks



Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website.

For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

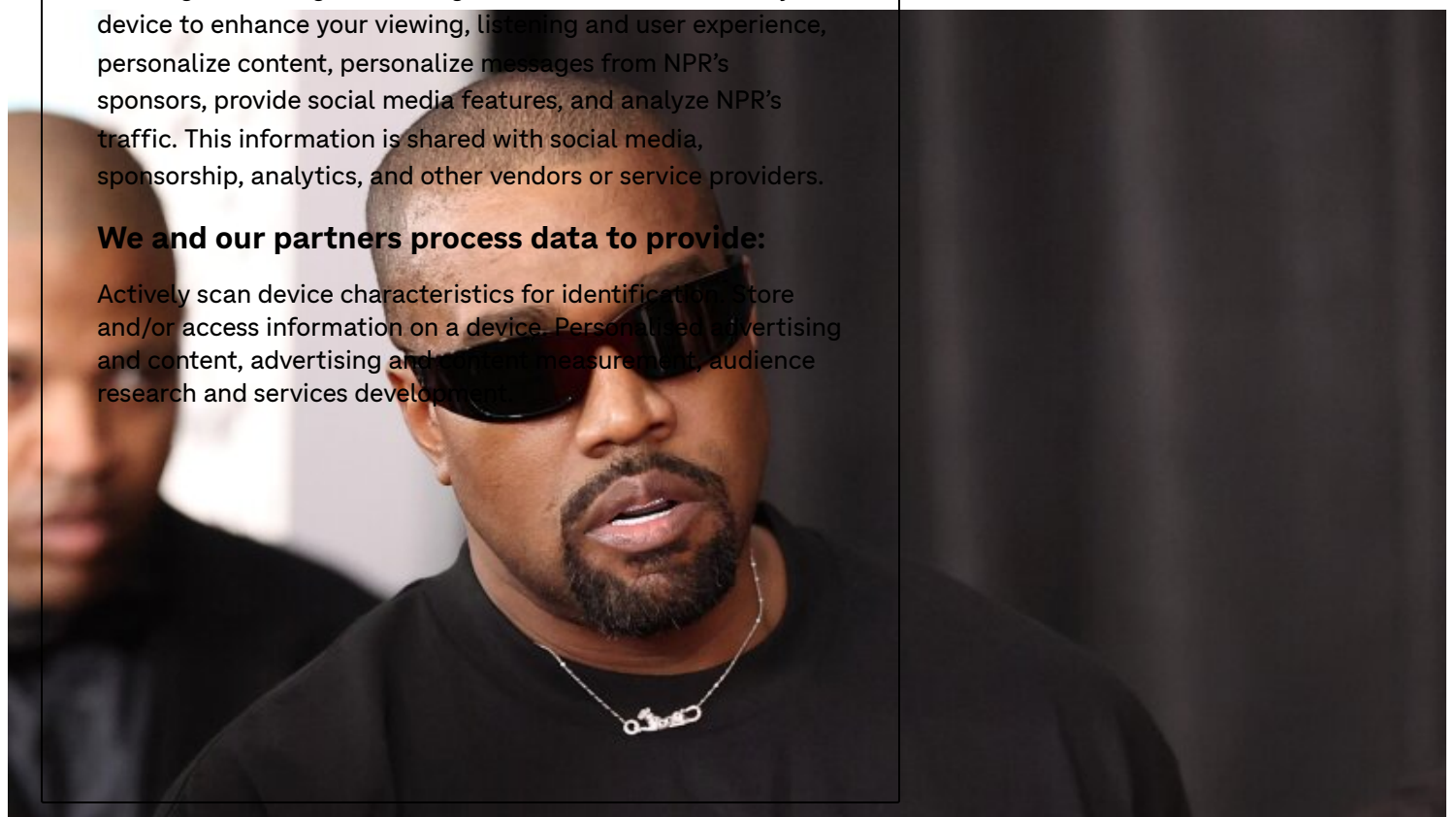
POLITICS

Congressional Democrats raise alarm over Trump's comments on Iran

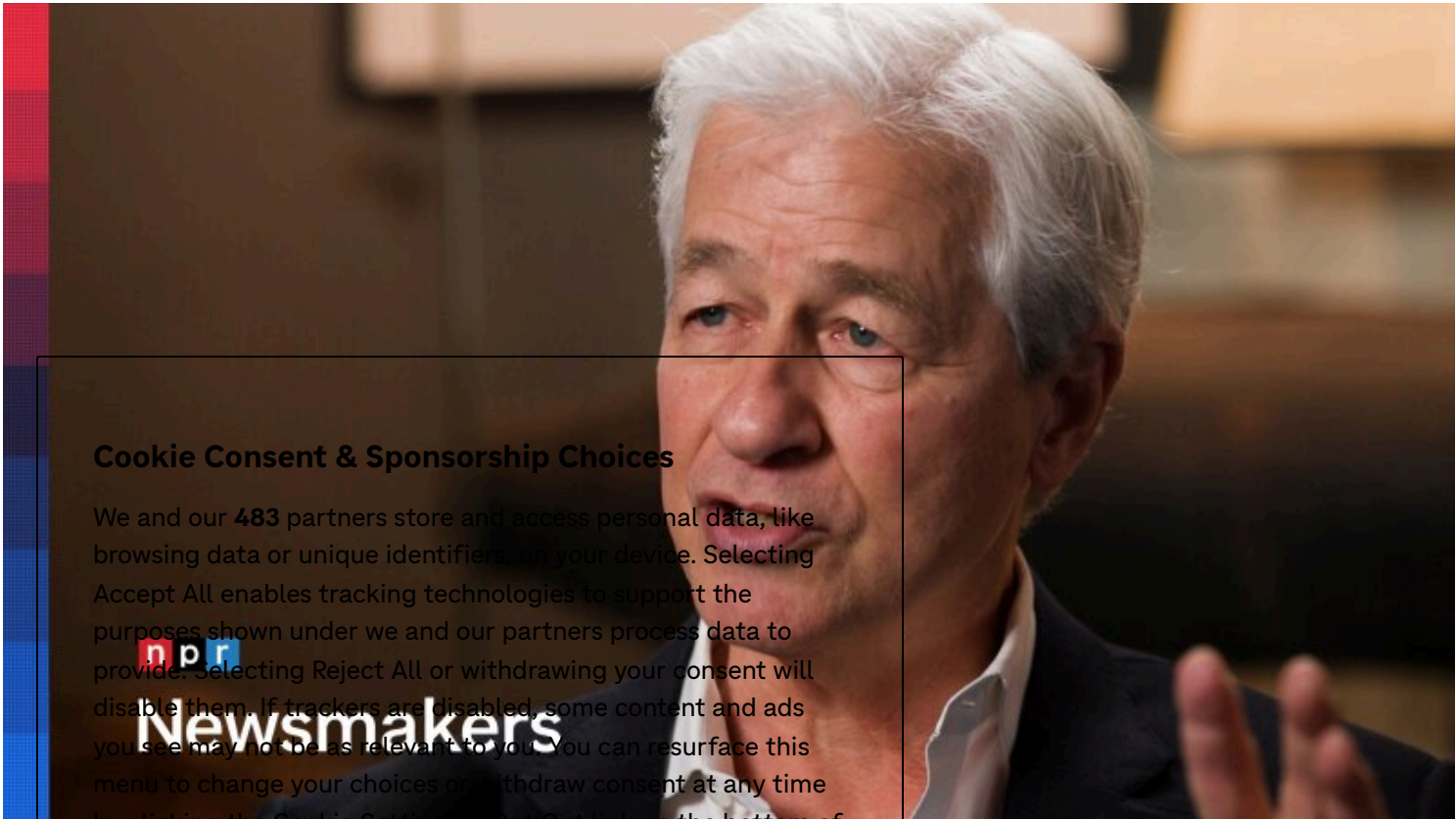
tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification, store and/or access information on a device, Personalized advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development

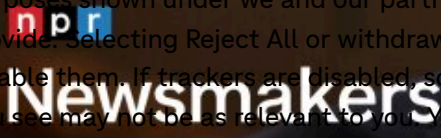


Astronauts suggest naming a moon crater 'Carroll' after their commander's late wife



Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time



NPR'S NEWSMAKERS

CEO of nation's largest bank says Iran war raises risk of 'bad economic outcomes'

by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.



By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

BUSINESS

Drive slower, go electric, don't drive at all? Americans weigh options for saving gas

READ & LISTEN

Home

News

Culture

Music

CONNECT

Newsletters

Facebook

Instagram

Press

Podcasts & Shows

Public Editor

Cookie Consent & Sponsorship Choices

Corrections

We and our **483** partners store and access personal data, browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting Accept All enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie Settings & Opt Out link on the bottom of the webpage. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

Transcripts

Contact & Help

ABOUT NPR

GET INVOLVED

Overview

Support Public Radio

Diversity

Sponsor NPR

NPR Network

NPR Careers

Accessibility

NPR Shop

Ethics

NPR Extra

Finances

We and our partners process data to provide:

Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

privacy

your privacy choices

text only

© 2026 npr