

Oct. 17, 2019

Proposed 2020 renewable fuel standard upsets corn, oil industries

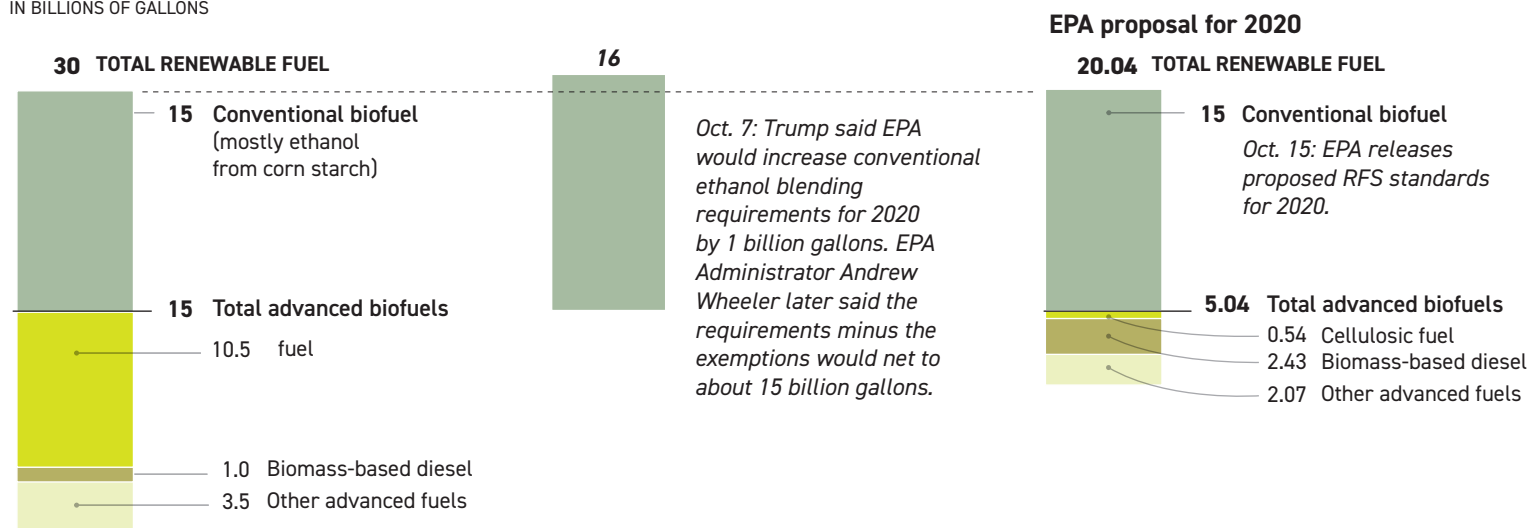
Contrary to President Donald Trump's recent promises to increase fuel ethanol blending requirements by a billion gallons, EPA's proposed supplemental RFS rule maintains the current volumes at the statutory cap, while shifting more of the annual blending requirement to larger refiners. The proposal triggered rebukes from biofuel producers, farmers and the oil industry. EPA will seek public comments until Nov. 29 before issuing a final rule.

The renewable fuel standard

Although cellulosic biofuels have not lived up to expectations, conventional corn ethanol production has been growing, at least until this year when the Energy Information Administration says it will decline for the first time.

Statute requirements for 2020

IN BILLIONS OF GALLONS

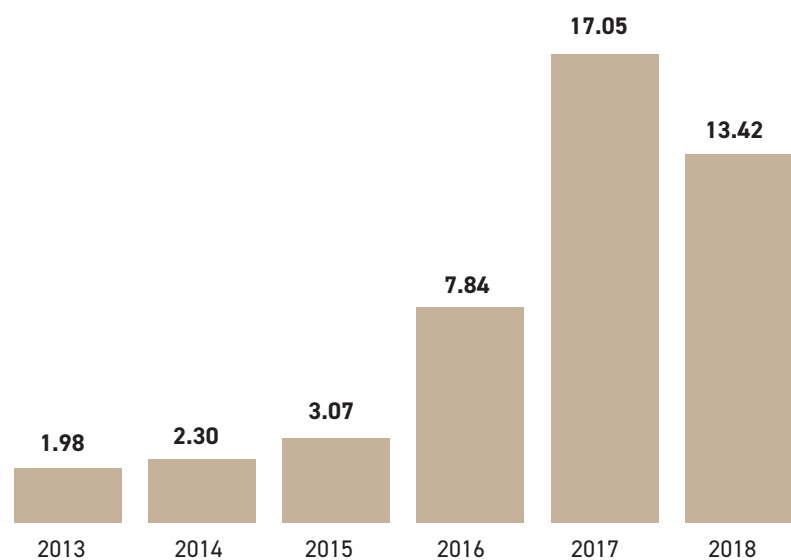


Blending exemptions

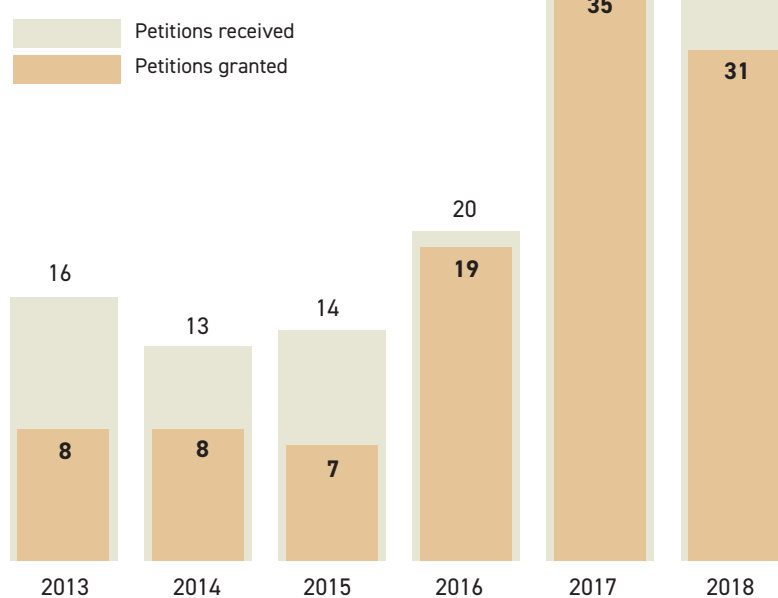
The Trump administration has issued federal waivers to small oil refiners at a much greater frequency than have previous administrations. The ethanol industry complains that waivers cut down on the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline, which reduces demand for corn.

Gasoline and diesel volumes exempted

IN BILLIONS OF GALLONS



Exemption petitions received and granted



Sources: EPA, POLITICO staff reports by Eric Wolff

By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint

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