

Three paths to withdraw from Paris Climate Agreement have very different timelines

Possible timelines for leaving the Paris Agreement

Withdraw voluntarily from Paris Agreement *Four years*

Article 28 of the Paris Agreement allows any party to withdraw voluntarily, but this option is not available to parties of the agreement until three years after it becomes effective
Withdraw date: November 2020

Withdraw voluntarily from UNFCCC *One year*

Article 28 also states that the withdrawal from the UNFCCC is also considered a withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. As three years have passed since its effective date, only the one year's notice has to be provided
Withdraw date: One year from notice, i.e. 2018

Non-implementation of Paris Agreement *Discretion of Administration*

None of the Paris Agreement's commitments are binding, meaning the Administration can repeal or replace domestic regulations that contribute to emissions targets
Withdraw date: As soon as regulations are repealed

Analysis

- Were the Trump Administration to decide to leave the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it is unclear whether they would need to consult Congress because the Senate approved the U.S.'s involvement in the UNFCCC
- The only legal obligation under the Paris Agreement was for a country to communicate a nationally determined contribution (NDC) for carbon emissions reductions, and the U.S. has already submitted one

Source: Stephen Mulligan, "Withdrawal from International Agreements: Legal Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Iran Nuclear Agreement," Congressional Research Service, February 9, 2017.