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## White House sued for not doing report on warming

Federal law required scientific assessment be issued in 2004

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Environmental advocates sued the Bush administration Tuesday for ignoring a 2004 congressional deadline to report to lawmakers and the public on the latest research on global warming.

A 1990 federal law requires the government to produce a scientific report every four years on climate change and its effects on the environment, including land, water, air, plant and animal life and human health.

The Clinton administration issued the first report in October 2000, warning of severe effects on different regions. But the Bush administration has not filed a report and has indicated it will not do so, environmentalists said in the suit filed in federal court in San Francisco.

Instead, the administration's Climate Change Science Program says it will issue 21 mini-reports on various aspects of the overall topic. The first

report, on temperature trends in the lower atmosphere, was released in May, and others will be issued periodically through 2008, a spokesman said.

"The Bush administration has failed to comply with the law," said attorney Julie Teel of the Center for Biological Diversity, which is a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "I think the administration's afraid to release this information because it makes climate change real for people."

She said the May report on lower atmosphere temperatures is a technical document that would be hard for the average citizen or member of Congress to understand. A 14-page summary of the report on the agency's Web site ([www.climatescience.gov](http://www.climatescience.gov)) contains findings about temperature variations at different atmospheric levels but does not discuss how those variations affect the environment.

Kent Laborde, spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

one of the agencies that make up the Climate Change Science Program, said the 21 reports are being prepared with public input and are intended to comply with the 1990 law.

"If you look at them in the aggregate, they are designed to be a complete picture," Laborde said.

The suit asks U.S. District Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong to set a new deadline for a comprehensive government report on global warming research.

The case was filed during the final days of the United Nations conference on climate change in Nairobi, Kenya, where Britain and other nations are urging the United States to drop its opposition to regulating emissions of greenhouse gases that cause increased temperatures.

President Bush opposes mandatory limits on emissions, saying they would damage the U.S. economy, and in 2001 pulled the United States out of the

Kyoto Protocol, which requires curbs on greenhouse gases. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Nov. 29 on a challenge by California, 11 other states and environmental groups to the administration's refusal to regulate vehicle emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth joined the Center for Biological Diversity in Tuesday's lawsuit. They said

the government is hurting the public, Congress and regulatory agencies by failing to provide global warming information that could affect policies in such areas as fuel economy standards, mining and offshore oil drilling.

They also noted that the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative agency, found in February 2005 that the administration had failed to comply with the congressional reporting mandate. Sen. John

Kerry, D-Mass., one of those who had requested the accountability office's report, said Tuesday that the lawsuit is necessary.

"It's the right time to push Washington to grapple with this issue," he said in a statement. "We can't respond to climate change if we can't make the government comply with the laws already on the books."