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ExxonMobil faces inquiry on what it knew about climate change

TEXAS-based oil giant ExxonMobil is facing an investigation into whether it has been suppressing research findings on [climate change](#) as far back as the 1970s.

On 4 November, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued a subpoena for documents, including financial records and emails, from the multinational relating to climate change research and advocacy.

“What’s shaping up is like the situation with the tobacco companies,” says Bob Ward at the London School of Economics. “For many years, they knew the truth about the harm done by cigarettes. The question now is whether ExxonMobil was doing the same with its products.”

The inquiry aims to find out whether the oil company was aware of the dangers of human-made climate change but chose to keep quiet and to promote [denial groups challenging the scientific consensus](#) that greenhouse gas emissions are warming the planet.

ExxonMobil denies the allegations.

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