

Regulatory Round-Up: How Recent Changes to Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations May Affect Permitting and Licensing Actions

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The United States is trying to rapidly transition to a clean energy economy. The question is, can we get out of our own regulatory way to do so?

In April 2021, President Biden announced new greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for the United States, including an economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas pollution of approximately 50 percent by 2030, based on 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels. Shortly thereafter, the administration announced new regulations expanding federal and state reviews and permitting under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that could increase the time it takes to build and operate infrastructure, including hydropower facilities, critical to achieving the nation's clean energy goals and emissions targets.

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