

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Statement of Regulatory and Deregulatory Priorities

The Department of Energy (Department or DOE) makes vital contributions to the Nation's welfare through its activities focused on improving national security, energy supply, energy efficiency, environmental remediation, and energy research. The Department's mission is to:

- Promote dependable and affordable energy production and distribution;
- Advance energy efficiency and conservation;
- Provide responsible stewardship of the Nation's nuclear weapons;
- Provide a responsible resolution to the environmental legacy of nuclear weapons production; and
- Strengthen U.S. scientific discovery, economic competitiveness, and improve quality of life through innovations in science and technology.

The Department's regulatory activities are essential to achieving its critical mission and to implementing President Trump's energy dominance initiatives. Among other things, the Regulatory Plan and the Unified Agenda contain the rulemakings the Department will be engaged in during the coming year. The Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda also reflect the Department's continuing commitment to cut costs, eliminate red tape, reduce regulatory burden, increase consumer choice, and promote market competition and innovation as directed through Departmental priorities and recent executive orders. Additionally, DOE recognizes that public participation and community engagement are a crucial aspect of the Department's rulemaking process, as well as an important vehicle to assist the Department in streamlining its deregulatory priorities to meet Administration goals as well.

As a general matter, the Department is undertaking a broad review of its regulatory and deregulatory actions. In the Spring of 2025 and in response to Executive Orders (EO) 14192 and 14219, the Department initiated an internal review of its existing regulations and guidance materials with the aim of identifying any redundant or unused regulatory mechanisms. The Department has used the results of that internal review to identify several opportunities for deregulatory activity. Overall, the Department has completed 15 deregulatory activities, as identified under EO 14192. More specifically, the Department would like to highlight the following ongoing actions.

One rulemaking being undertaken by the Department in FY 2026 addresses proposed revisions to the value for the petroleum-equivalency factor (PEF). This rulemaking would revise DOE's regulations regarding procedures for calculating a value for the petroleum-equivalent fuel economy of electric vehicles (EVs). The PEF is used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in calculating light-duty vehicle manufacturers' compliance with the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. This rulemaking action is in response to an Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that vacated *Petroleum-Equivalent Fuel Economy Calculation*, 89 FR 22041 (Mar. 29, 2024) (2024 PEF Final Rule).

DOE is also considering potential revisions to the Department's current rulemaking guidance titled "Procedures, Interpretations, and Policies for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Consumer Products and Certain Commercial/Industrial Equipment" (Process Rule), which was last modified in 2024. The goal of the Process Rule is to increase transparency by elaborating on the procedures, interpretations, and policies that would guide the Department in establishing new or revised energy conservation standards and test procedures for covered consumer products and commercial/industrial equipment. DOE is considering a notice-and-comment rulemaking to amend its Process Improvement Rule to reflect statutory changes, as well as innovative, collaborative approaches to reflect more efficient rulemaking. This rulemaking advances the objectives of E.O. 14154 and E.O. 14219 by ensuring that the rulemaking process for the Appliance Standards Program meets the energy and cost savings objectives of EPCA while preserving consumer choice and minimizing regulatory burdens.

In addition, as part of a nuclear regulatory reform effort directed by E.O. 14301, DOE is proposing to streamline and modernize its regulations for worker safety and health to expedite the deployment of advanced reactors under DOE's jurisdiction. These amendments will incorporate lessons learned from decades of operating experience at DOE nuclear facilities while continuing to ensure worker safety and health. Benefits of these amendments include: increased flexibility for DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy contractors to implement current industry and government standards, streamlined compliance processes, and a greater focus on risk management.

Lastly, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) amended the Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Program authorized by Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended. The OBBBA amendments, specifically its Energy Dominance Financing provisions, necessitate immediate and material changes to the regulations set forth at 10 CFR part 609. Through an interim final rule, DOE is amending 10 CFR part 609 to incorporate the Energy Dominance Financing provisions, which include new and amended categories of eligible projects. The interim final rule allows DOE to continue processing Title XVII applications for a broad range of energy infrastructure projects up to a total principal amount of \$250 billion (through September 30, 2028). The rulemaking will also reduce a Title XVII applicants' reporting burden, which translates to a cost savings.