

Executive Order Listening Sessions:

Climate & Environment

Overview

- Executive order background
- Goals of Trump's orders
- Methods of Trump's orders
- Discussion/questions

Executive Order Background

- “Signed, written and published directive from the POTUS that manages the operation of the federal government” –American Bar Association
- Unilateral action that directs administration policy and enforcement of legislation in the executive branch
- Can be overturned by:
 - Legislation
 - Court Ruling
- Increasing number/scope of unilateral actions over American history

Trump Executive Orders

- 157 orders signed in 2025
- Accessible online at [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)
- At least 16 with environment-related titles
- Goals of Trump's environment-related orders:
 1. Increasing resource extraction
 2. Increasing energy production
 3. Stopping "radical environmentalism"
- Methods orders use to achieve these goals:
 1. Declaring an energy emergency
 2. Expediting permitting processes
 3. Deregulation

Goal: Increasing Resource Extraction

EO 14241 issued March 20: “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production”

- Expedites approval of mineral production projects
- Demands list of all federal lands known to have mineral deposits
- Makes mineral extraction primary use of these federal lands
- Optimizes forms of public assistance for mineral production projects

Oak Flat made the list of projects to be prioritized under this order

EO 14241 Sec 6 (a) and (c)

Sec. 6 . Accelerating Private and Public Capital Investment. (a) The Secretary of Defense shall utilize the National Security Capital Forum to facilitate the introduction of entities to pair private capital with commercially viable domestic mineral production projects to the maximum possible extent.

(c) Agencies that are empowered to make loans, loan guarantees, grants, equity investments, or to conclude offtake agreements to advance national security in securing vital mineral supply chains, both domestically and abroad, shall, to the extent permitted by law, take steps to rescind any policies that require an applicant to complete and submit to the agency as part of an application for such funds the disclosures that are required by Regulation S-K part 1300.

Goal: Increasing Energy Production

EO 14154 issued January 20: “Unleashing American Energy”

- Outlines energy policy for the US
- Rescinds many Biden’s environment-related orders
- Streamlines permitting process
- Restricts environmental considerations in permitting processes

* Also on January 20, Trump issued a memorandum terminating the leasing of federal waters for wind power*

EO 14154 Sec 2 and Sec 6 (a)

Sec. 6 . *Prioritizing Accuracy in Environmental Analyses.* (a) In all Federal permitting adjudications or regulatory processes, all agencies shall adhere to only the relevant legislated requirements for environmental considerations and any considerations beyond these requirements are eliminated. In fulfilling all such requirements, agencies shall strictly use the most robust methodologies of assessment at their disposal and shall not use methodologies that are arbitrary or ideologically motivated.

Goal: Stopping “Radical Environmentalism”

EO 14260 issued April 8: “Protecting American Energy from State Overreach”

- Instructs AG to identify and prevent enforcement of state laws that impede energy production
- Targets laws addressing climate change, environmental justice, etc.

EO 14208 issued February 10: “Ending Procurement and Forced Use of Paper Straws”

- Ends use of paper straws in federal buildings
- Encourages elimination of policies disfavoring plastic straws

EO 14260 Sec 2 (a) and (b)

Sec. 2 . *State Laws and Causes of Action.* (a) The Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of appropriate executive departments and agencies, shall identify all State and local laws, regulations, causes of action, policies, and practices (collectively, State laws) burdening the identification, development, siting, production, or use of domestic energy resources that are or may be unconstitutional, preempted by Federal law, or otherwise unenforceable. The Attorney General shall prioritize the identification of any such State laws purporting to address “climate change” or involving “environmental, social, and governance” initiatives, “environmental justice,” carbon or “greenhouse gas” emissions, and funds to collect carbon penalties or carbon taxes.

(b) The Attorney General shall expeditiously take all appropriate action to stop the enforcement of State laws and continuation of civil actions identified in subsection (a) of this section that the Attorney General determines to be illegal.

Method: Declaring an Energy Emergency

- EO 14156 issued January 20 declares a national energy emergency
- Instructs agencies to identify emergency powers that can be used to speed energy production
- May allow government to sidestep some environmental regulations in laws such as:
 - Clean Water Act
 - Endangered Species Act

EO 14156 Sec 2 and Sec 4 (a)(i)

Sec. 2 . *Emergency Approvals.* (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies (“agencies”) shall identify and exercise any lawful emergency authorities available to them, as well as all other lawful authorities they may possess, to facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources, including, but not limited to, on Federal lands.

Sec. 4 . *Emergency Regulations and Nationwide Permits Under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Other Statutes Administered by the Army Corps of Engineers.* (a) Within 30 days from the date of this order, the heads of all agencies...shall:

(i) identify planned or potential actions to facilitate the Nation's energy supply that may be subject to emergency treatment pursuant to the regulations and nationwide permits promulgated by the Corps, or jointly by the Corps and EPA, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, [33 U.S.C. 1344](#), section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899, [33 U.S.C. 403](#), and section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972,

Method: Expediting Permitting Processes

- Many orders call for expediting approval of energy and mineral projects
- Doesn't leave time for normal review of environmental impacts of projects

Example: EO 14225 “Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production”

- Expedites timber project approval
 - Encourages delegating consultation requirements in ESA to agencies other than those outlined in the act

EO 14225 Sec 3 (Bonus Sec 4)

Sec. 3 . Streamlined Permitting. All relevant agencies shall eliminate, to the maximum extent permissible by law, all undue delays within their respective permitting processes related to timber production. Additionally, all relevant agencies shall take all necessary and appropriate steps consistent with applicable law to suspend, revise, or rescind all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, settlements, consent orders, and other agency actions that impose an undue burden on timber production.

Invoking emergency powers again to sidestep environmental regulations

Sec. 4 . Endangered Species Committee. (a) Agencies are directed to use, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law, the ESA regulations on consultations in emergencies to facilitate the Nation's timber production.

Method: Deregulation

EO 14270 issued April 9: “Zero-Based Regulatory Budgeting to Unleash American Energy”

- Requires government agencies to set an end date for regulations associated with environmental protection laws including:
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act

EO 14270 Sec 4

Sec. 4 . Zero-Based Regulating. (a) To the extent consistent with applicable law, **each of the Covered Agencies shall issue a sunset rule**, effective not later than September 30, 2025, that inserts a Conditional Sunset Date into each of their Covered Regulations.

Write Your Lawmakers!

- Congress can pass legislation that makes Trump's orders illegal
- AZ senators: Mark Kelly and Ruben Gallego
 - Their websites have feedback form
- AZ District 6 Representative: Juan Ciscomani