

The 2025 Agenda in the Trump Administration and the New Congress

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Administration Actions – Mgmt. & Org.

President Trump signed 26 executive orders on January 20, 2025 –

More than 75 executive orders, memos and proclamations during his first 22 days in office — a far faster pace than his predecessors.

Two for One Becomes Ten for One –

Whenever an agency promulgates a new rule, regulation, or guidance, it must identify at least 10 existing rules, regulations, or guidance documents to be repealed.

Challenging Executive Authority on Gov. Organization & Workforce -

Cutting USAID, USTDA website, Review of FEMA

Merging OMB, OPM, and GSA

Most pending legal challenge in courts – likely more to come



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Administration Actions - Infrastructure

Eliminate the “EV mandate” and “Green New Deal”–

Executive Order pauses funds for certain programs under IIJA, creating confusion.

Focus on environmental permitting and other regulatory reforms –

Executive Order directs agencies to use emergency authorities to expedite permitting for energy projects; rescinds CEQ's NEPA regulations.

Prioritize projects and programs with national or regional benefit –

Roads, bridges, ports preferred over “local” transit, rail, bike/ped trails.

Remove equity and justice considerations in grant awards –

Focus on more traditional selection criteria.



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Administration Actions - Energy

Expand oil and gas development –

Executive Order calls for additional leasing on public lands; reopening LNG exports.

Pause on wind energy –

Ordered a temporary freeze on all offshore wind energy leases on the OCS; will review existing wind energy leases to determine whether any should be terminated or amended based on environmental, economic, and legal factors.

Repeal Biden climate initiatives –

Rescinded Biden orders directing agencies to confront climate change, including measuring the social cost of carbon; addressing climate-related financial risks; achieving carbon-free electricity by 2030; and implementing energy and infrastructure provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.



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Administration Actions - Environment

Expedited permitting –

Executive Order directs agencies to use emergency authorities to expedite permitting for traditional energy projects – excluding renewables.

Revoke NEPA implementing Regulations –

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is ordered to revoke regulations implementing NEPA and develop guidance for each of the agencies to individually implement their own NEPA permitting rules.

Pull back on proposed PFAS effluent standards–

President Trump has halted all proposed rules that were not finalized at the end of the Biden Administration. This includes a proposed rule that would limit discharges of PFAS in drinking water.



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Administration Actions - DEI

Eliminate DEI initiatives in the Federal Government –

Focused on federal agency personnel employment practices and training programs.

Discourage DEI initiatives in the private sector –

Will require federal contractors to certify compliance with Civil Rights laws and anti-discrimination policies, subject to the False Claims Act; agencies directed to identify DEI programs among large corporations, foundations, nonprofits.

ACEC Free Online Program – Tuesday, February 25, 1:30 p.m. EST

www.acec.org/course/new-executive-orders-on-dei-impacts-for-engineering-firms/



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Recommended Steps for Firms

- Stop Work Order on federally funded project
 - Share project details with ACEC staff
 - Contact local Member of Congress and Senators to ask for assistance
 - Stay in communication with contract officer
 - Document company response actions, impacts
- Firm DEI programs and initiatives
 - Review public statements, website, internal policies
 - Consult with legal counsel

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2025 Legislative Agenda

- Appropriations bill(s) for FY 2025
 - Current stopgap extension expires March 14.
 - Will need to be bipartisan, giving leverage to Democrats in negotiations.
- Debt limit increase
- Budget reconciliation – one bill or two?
 - Senate: start with energy, immigration and border security.
 - House: include tax reform.
 - Competing Budget Committee markups this week.

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2025 Tax Reform

- Key priorities: protect 21% corporate rate and 20% passthrough deduction, restore R&D deductibility.
- Other objectives: infrastructure funding, workforce – extend Section 127.
- House budget resolution allows for \$4.5 trillion in tax relief – but that's less than the cost of extending the 2017 law
- Debate between tax-writers and budget hawks over adding to the debt

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Infrastructure Outlook

- IIJA expires at the end of September 2026.
- Congressional focus is on reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs; committee hearings underway.
- That effort could become a driver for something bigger, but IIJA 2.0 not likely.
- ACEC coordinating now with industry stakeholders on common goals, messages for the new Congress.
- 2025 tax package possible vehicle for revenue to support transportation bill – Republicans voicing support for targeting EVs to support the Highway Trust Fund.

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ACEC Reauthorization Priorities

- **Funding:** At least maintain current levels of investment and increase, if possible; extend deadlines for IIJA if necessary (i.e. no rescissions or lapses).
- **Procurement:** Clarify QBS requirements for all funding recipients, particularly local governments.
- **Contracting:** Promote more utilization of lump sum.
- **Administration:** Address challenges with local grant awards.

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ACEC Water & Environment Priorities

- **Water Infrastructure Funding:** Fully fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds and continue the 2-year cycle for WRDA bills.
- **Emerging Contaminants:** Support funding for PFAS testing and treatment; advocate to exempt water utilities, consultants and other "passive receivers" of PFAS from Superfund liability.
- **Permitting:** Advocate for reasonable permitting reforms to improve project delivery.
- **WOTUS:** Restore balance between federal and state jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

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ACEC Energy Priorities

- **IRA Funding:** Work with stakeholders on renewable projects funds.
- **Natural Gas:** Support policy efforts by Congress and Administration to grow natural gas infrastructure.
- **Grid Modernization:** Advocate for technologies to enhance the distribution of electricity to meet the higher demand of AI and data centers.
- **Nuclear:** Advance policies to expand nuclear technologies like small nuclear reactors.

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Make Your Voice Heard in Washington



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Questions?

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