Insights: Publications

The Biden Administration – Environmental Rollbacks, Reversals and Initiatives

Kilpatrick Townsend Environmental Reg Watch Blog

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It has been 50 days since Joseph R. Biden was sworn into office. His inauguration was soon followed by the swearing in of two Democratic Senators from Georgia with the result that, for the first time since 2010, there is a Democratic President and the Democrats hold the majority, albeit slight, in the House and the Senate. This creates an opportunity for President Biden to enact sweeping environmental reforms through executive orders, regulatory guidance, federal regulations and legislation to promote his initiatives, [Climate Change: A New Direction]. President Biden took immediate steps to promote his agenda on his first day in office, issuing an Executive Order titled "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis" and publishing a "List of Agency Actions for Review." (See [Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis | The White House] and [Fact Sheet: List of Agency Actions for Review | The White House]). While the Executive Order addresses broader policy initiatives such as vehicle economy and emissions standards, methane emissions, and appliance and building efficiency standards, the list of Agency Actions to be reviewed identifies more than 100 regulations and executive actions issued by the Trump administration between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021 and includes 48 regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. Following on the heels of these actions, the administration released another climate-driven [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad | The White House]). These Executive Orders demonstrate the Biden administration's whole-of-government approach to climate policy, reducing climate impacts in every sector of government as well as address disparate impacts on communities. ([Executive Orders Demonstrate an Aggressive Environmental Agenda])

Related People



Susan H. Richardson
t 404.815.6330
srichardson@ktslaw.com