



Institute for
Policy Integrity
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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STATEMENT ON ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Today, the Trump administration released a proposal to weaken one of the country’s foundational environmental laws, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposal would exempt many energy and infrastructure projects from requirements to conduct a detailed review of environmental impacts.

Jayni Hein, Natural Resources Director of the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law, has released the following statement:

“These proposed changes cannot alter the requirements of NEPA, a bedrock environmental law that requires detailed discussion of all environmental effects. Instead of cutting red tape, the proposed regulations may usher in rushed, slapdash environmental reviews that cannot survive legal challenges.

Just in the past few months, federal courts have overturned several insufficient NEPA analyses, leading to cancelled and stalled projects. If the regulations are finalized, these missteps and project delays will likely become more common.

Even for projects without federal funding, federal agencies play a key role as gatekeepers for project approval. NEPA recognizes this critical role and ties environmental reviews to all such approvals. The proposal cannot artificially narrow NEPA’s reach.

Jayni Hein and other members of our staff are available for interviews on this matter.

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original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.