

## **Please Take this Opportunity to Comment -- *continued***

A major goal stated by the new President is to attain “energy independence” through the America First Energy Plan. In its strongest form, energy experts say independence means that a nation produces as much energy as it uses (recent government statistics show the US produces over 80% of what we consume). More commonly, the term refers to a situation where supplies and prices are stable.

Energy experts say there are basically three routes to achieving independence:

- Open up more fossil fuels production - The President has signed Executive Orders (EO) to proceed with the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines.
- Reduce regulation - Executive Order 13783 - Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth - Instructs the EPA to review all regulations that “that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources”.
- Encourage widespread use of renewables to diversify sources. (No EOs on this).

The President’s EO 13777 specifically targets government regulation as a key barrier to achieving energy independence and other economic goals such as job creation and economic growth. This EO entitled “Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda” instructs each federal agency to “comb through existing regulations and recommend which ones the administration should repeal.” It also “Directs the officers to focus on eliminating regulations that prevent job creation, are outdated, unnecessary, or cost too much.”

Executive Order 13783, “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth” specifically targets the EPA and sets forth the goal of ensuring that

“...the Nation’s electricity is affordable, reliable, safe, secure, and clean, and that it can be produced from coal, natural gas, nuclear material, flowing water, and other domestic sources, including renewable sources.”

Federal departments and agencies are directed to

- Review existing regulations that potentially burden development or use of domestically produced energy resources.
  - Appropriately suspend, revise or rescind those that unduly burden development of domestic energy resources beyond the degree necessary to protect the public interest or comply with the law.
- “Burden” is defined as “to unnecessarily obstruct, delay, curtail, or otherwise impose significant costs on the siting, permitting, production, utilization, transmission, or delivery of energy resources.”

This EO goes on to rescind the previous administration’s Clean Power Plan, to delete previous presidential reports on climate change, to instruct the Department of the Interior to lift the moratoriums and leasing activities for coal, oil and natural gas on federal lands. It also disbands the Working Group on the Social Costs of Greenhouse Gasses and requires all estimates of those costs to “revert to the standards for regulatory analysis set in 2003”. There is much more and the full text of the EO is available at the EPA website at the end of this article.

The EPA’s regulation review process has begun and they are soliciting public comments through May 15th as the first step, evaluating existing regulations. Comments are welcome “from entities significantly affected by Federal regulations, including State, local, and tribal governments, small businesses, consumers, non-governmental organizations, and trade associations”. Although the League

is not commenting as an organization at this time, we believe our members may want to do so as individuals who are “significantly affected.”

Complete information on the regulations, comment instructions dockets and links to the President’s Executive Orders are available at

<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulatory-reform#Public>

Comments may be submitted in writing, vial Email, Docket or mail.

Email [Laws-Regs@epa.gov](mailto:Laws-Regs@epa.gov)

Docket:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190>

Mail:

Office of Policy Regulatory Reform, Mail Code 1803A

1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington, DC 20460

Laura Kratz

LWVIL Issue Specialist - Energy and Air Quality

May 1, 2017