

Regulatory Analysis

Thousands of pages of regulations can apply to a federal agency's decision regarding the siting of a power plant or the storage of hazardous waste. Sifting through the regulations can be expensive, confusing, and tedious. Overlooking a regulation or misinterpreting how it applies, however, can have far greater consequences. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) helps government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission understand, navigate, and comply with complex regulations, avoiding costly mistakes that could damage public trust and acceptance.



To help our clients understand, navigate, and comply with complex, changing regulations, our regulatory analysts

- Provide meticulous and easy-to-understand analyses.
- Conduct detailed research using state-of-the-art tools.
- Have access to top scientific and technical experts in nearly every scientific field.

Commenting on Draft Regulations

During the regulatory process, federal agencies seek out comments through *Federal Register* notices on proposed and pre-decisional rules from the public including agencies that will be affected. PNNL helps clients understand how the proposed rules will impact their operations. We collate client comments on proposed rules, often working with offices around the country, and prepare draft comments that effectively communicate with regulators. Through these efforts, we help our clients and regulators build policies that are environmentally and economically effective. For example, for DOE, PNNL collates and prepares comments on proposed rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act.

Complying with Final Regulations

When rules are issued in final form, PNNL determines how clients will have to change their operations to comply. Because PNNL has more than 30 years experience in scientific, technical, and industrial fields, we can analyze the impacts for different facilities, from manufacturing plants to storage areas. In addition, we distill this information into easy-to-manage technical packets that can be used to create guidelines for staff, making compliance easier. For example, PNNL has provided technical support to DOE program and field offices in complying with final rules under the Clean Air Act.



With expertise in scientific and legal fields, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory helps DOE, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other agencies understand and comply with complex regulations.

Regulatory Aspects of NEPA Compliance

Using detailed research methods, PNNL helps clients with the regulatory aspects of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

Specifically, PNNL can

- Identify key regulations, permits, and licenses and understand their impacts on the client's existing and proposed activities. This allows our clients to create effective strategies and avoid costly problems.
- Prepare responses to public comments on draft environmental impact statements.
- Prepare draft versions of *Federal Register* notices related to impact statements.

Examples of environmental impact statements where PNNL has assisted DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission include

- Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Facility
- Hanford K-Basins
- Hanford radioactive and hazardous solid waste management
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
- Medical isotope production plant

- Supplemental environmental impact statements associated with applications to renew operating licenses at nuclear power plants.

Drafting Directives

While PNNL does not develop government policy, our technical and policy experts help our government clients draft directives and policies. Our knowledge of DOE and other government directives and our sophisticated research tools, such as Lexis-Nexis[®], allow us to write meticulously researched, concise drafts.

By communicating effectively and routinely with our clients, we create policy statements and documents that get the job done, saving our clients expensive rounds of revisions and changes in directions. For example, PNNL is assisting DOE in revising its order on its responsibilities under the Safeguards Agreement between the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency.



PNNL provides support under the Clean Air Act to DOE's Office of Air, Water, and Radiation Protection Policy Guidance.

About Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

A multiprogram national laboratory, PNNL conducts breakthrough research in environmental and energy science and technology, national and homeland security, and fundamental science. Located in Richland, Wash., PNNL has approximately 3,800 researchers and staff. In addition to its main Richland complex, PNNL operates the Marine Sciences Laboratory in Sequim, Wash., and has offices in Portland, Ore.; Seattle, Wash.; and Washington, D.C.

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