



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241

Executive Order #14261

Date Issued: April 8, 2025

Topic: Environmental Justice, Energy

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order calls for a coordinated, government-wide effort to promote coal production, utilization, and exportation. In doing so, it aims to reestablish coal as a central pillar of U.S. energy policy by designating it as a strategic mineral critical to national security, economic stability, and technological innovation.
- The order unlocks access to expedited permitting, priority land use on federal lands, and eligibility for federal support mechanisms previously reserved for critical materials.
- The order dismantles regulatory and policy barriers that discourage coal investment and usage. It requires key federal agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Transportation, Interior, Treasury, and Commerce, to identify and eliminate internal policies, programs, and financing rules restricting coal-powered infrastructure. These provisions mark a significant policy shift intended to reinvigorate the coal industry and integrate it into the future of U.S. energy and manufacturing strategy.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order is enforced through a structured, time-sensitive, and agency-specific framework overseen by the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) to ensure centralized oversight and accountability.
- Within 30 days, the Secretaries of State, Agriculture, Commerce, and Energy, as well as the Chief Executive Officer of the International Development Finance Corporation and the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States must identify and roll back any policies that restrict coal usage. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Secretaries of Transportation, Interior, Energy, Labor, and Treasury, will assess anti-coal guidance and propose reversals. Agencies must also report potential National Environmental Policy Act exclusions to streamline coal projects.
- Within 60 days, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy shall submit a consolidated report to the President that identifies coal reserves on federal lands, proposes ways to ease mining restrictions, and prioritizes leasing and reviews. They must also evaluate how coal-powered sites could support AI data centers and issue recommendations for expansion.
- Within 90 days, the Secretary of Energy must provide the President, through the NEDC Chair, with a comprehensive plan detailing the financial tools, initiatives, and policy measures implemented to speed up the development and rollout of coal technologies.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The implications of this executive order for Black communities are complex and potentially far-reaching, touching on environmental justice, economic opportunity, and public health. Historically, many Black communities in the U.S. have been disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards, including pollution from coal-fired power plants, exposure to coal ash, and proximity to extractive industrial operations. The rollback of environmental protections, acceleration of coal development on public lands, and the expansion of coal-related infrastructure could exacerbate these existing environmental burdens, particularly in communities already struggling with poor air quality, limited access to healthcare, and underinvestment in green infrastructure.
- Proponents of the order argue that expanding coal production will advance jobs. However, research shows that coal employment is geographically limited. Promoting high-paying coal jobs does not guarantee equitable access for Black workers unless paired with intentional outreach, anti-discrimination enforcement, and workforce development targeted at historically excluded populations.
- Furthermore, this order reverses the movement toward the Biden administration's just energy transition policies designed to include and uplift marginalized communities in the shift toward sustainable energy. By emphasizing coal as a permanent energy fixture rather than a legacy industry in decline, the order effectively sidelines investments in clean energy sectors that have shown promise in generating safer, healthier, and more accessible job opportunities for Black and brown workers.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have demonstrated a commitment to environmental justice for decades. On April 1, 2025, **Senator Cory Booker**, Chair of the Senate Environmental Justice Caucus, gave a record-breaking 25-hour speech, where he characterized the Trump Administration as an “existential threat” to efforts to address climate change:
 - “Donald Trump is threatening our children’s future and hurting our nation’s economy. [...] This administration is rolling back efforts to reduce emissions from power plants and letting polluters pollute our air more.” [Full Statement](#)
- To read more about the CBC’s legacy on environmental justice issues, visit [Avoice](#), our virtual library.