



## EPA Extends Wastewater Compliance Deadlines for Coal-fired Power Plants

On December 23, 2025, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule extending several wastewater compliance deadlines for coal-fired powerplants that were finalized by the Biden Administration. The agency's action will provide electricity producers with more time to comply with these deadlines in light of extraordinary increases in electricity demand, driven in part by the AI and data center revolution, as well as an industrial and manufacturing resurgence. EPA is committed to protecting our nation's water resources under the Clean Water Act and providing regulatory certainty for the power sector to continue utilizing domestically sourced coal while adapting to increasing demand and supply chain risks for treatment technologies. EPA's actions advance the goals of President Trump's energy policies for the benefit of all Americans.

### Final Rule

The agency's final rule extends seven implementation dates by:

- Providing six more years (to December 31, 2031) for existing steam electric power plants to assess potential compliance pathways for their continued operations.
- Extending compliance deadlines by five years (to December 31, 2034) related to zero-discharge limitations for flue gas desulfurization wastewater, bottom ash transport water, and combustion residual leachate.
- Providing more time for compliance with three zero-discharge limitations for power plants that send wastewater to wastewater treatment plants for processing. The agency's proposal would align these deadlines with the deadlines for power plants that discharge directly to waterways.

### Summary of Deadline Extensions

Rule	Wastestream/Submission	Current Deadlines	Finalized Deadlines	Extendable by 40 CFR 423.18
2020 Rule	BA Transport Water (Generally Applicable BAT)	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2025	Yes
	FGD Wastewater (Generally Applicable BAT)	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2025	
	FGD Wastewater (VIP limitations)	December 31, 2028	December 31, 2028	
2024 Rule	NOPP for the Permanent Cessation of Coal Combustion by 2034 Subcategory	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2031	X
	BA Transport Water (Generally Applicable PSES)	May 9, 2027	Promulgation Date Plus Three Years and One Day -or- Site-Specific Date for BAT	X
	FGD Wastewater (Generally Applicable PSES)			
	CRL (Generally Applicable PSES)			
	BA Transport Water (Generally Applicable BAT)	No later than December 31, 2029	No later than December 31, 2034	Yes

## Background

Under the CWA, EPA establishes national technology-based limits for pollution discharged from industrial sources to waterways. These limits are called effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) and they are implemented through permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Permits are typically issued by states and are valid for 5 years. The ELGs for the Steam Electric Power Generating industry apply to power plants, including those that burn domestically sourced beautiful clean coal, that create steam to generate electricity. Depending on site-specific circumstances, these power plants may use large volumes of water in their operation and maintenance. Wastewater is treated to reduce pollutants before it is returned to the environment. The agency previously issued final regulations revising ELGs for steam electric power plants in 2015, 2020, and 2024.

## More Information

To read the Federal Register notices and supporting documents, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/steam-electric-power-generating-effluent-guidelines>. For additional information, contact Richard Benware at (202) 566-1369 or [benware.richard@epa.gov](mailto:benware.richard@epa.gov).