The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) proposed the first of two planned rules aimed at reversing most of the Trump Administration’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reforms. In a new Insight, Director of Regulatory Policy Dan Bosch analyzes the Phase I rule, noting that its revisions are likely to increase permitting times and uncertainty for applicants and decrease the number of projects ultimately approved.

Key points:

- The proposed rule will scrap provisions from the Trump Administration aimed at reducing environmental review times for infrastructure and other projects needing federal approval.
- While the proposed rule will revert to policy that led to review times doubling since the 1970s, a second proposed rule will likely go even further.
- It is unclear how the Biden Administration will reconcile its proposed NEPA changes with its claims that the infrastructure projects the changes will slow are critical to the United States’ economic future.

*Read the analysis*