

DOGE-WATCH

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Dear DOGE-WATCH Community,
every day, there are new announcements about decisions made by US authorities under the guidance of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Many of these are general political debates or purely personnel measures.

DOGE-WATCH aims to keep you updated on structural regulatory measures and their evaluation. Significant changes can be observed, especially in the area of environmental regulation.

Live Report from the USA / DOGE Blog

Our next video conference with **Patrick McLaughlin** about the current discussion in the USA will take place on Wednesday, **2 April from 17:00 – 18:00**.

Patrick McLaughlin is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. His work focuses on the economics of regulation and deregulation, and he is widely recognized as one of the world's leaders in quantifying regulation and estimating its effects on economic growth. He is also an expert on the regulatory process in the United States, and his ideas on improving the regulatory process have been implemented in ten US States so far.

You will receive your Zoom access details in a separate email one week before the meeting.

Important Changes in Environmental Law

The American Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must withdraw from climate policy and is reviewing regulations that govern emissions from cars and power plants, with the declared intention of completely abolishing them.

One of the agency's key measures is its plan to lift restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Currently, the rule states that existing coal-fired power plants and new gas-fired power plants must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2039. An emissions standard regulation that aimed to ensure that the majority of cars and commercial vehicles sold in the USA are fully electric or hybrid by 2032 has already been terminated.

Limits on mercury emissions from power plants and restrictions on soot and haze from coal combustion are to be relaxed. A regulation from the Biden era aimed to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 70 percent, as mercury is associated with developmental damage in children.

However, the EPA's intention to give up its own legal basis for issuing regulations to limit greenhouse gases could be particularly far-reaching. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA is authorized to regulate greenhouse gases because they fall under the definition of air pollutants in the Clean Air Act. This court decision gave the administrations of Barack Obama and Joe Biden the opportunity to issue significant climate policy regulations without the approval of Congress. Based on this ruling, the EPA concluded that six major greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare. (Text based on a report from the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

State-Level DOGE Programs Take a Different Approach to Efficiency

We focus very much on observing the American federal government. This may be too narrow a view. A number of states have already launched their own "DOGE initiatives" at the beginning of the year. Some through executive orders, others through special laws. An overview can be found in this [article](#).

What Does the USA Think About Elon Musk's Activities at DOGE

A recently published national survey shows that 46% of voters in the USA believe that DOGE reforms are a good thing, 40% disagree, and 13% have no opinion. However, when asked how they feel about its execution, 41% have positive views, while 47% disapprove.

Elon Musk, who heads the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), is unpopular. Fifty-one percent of voters view him negatively, while only 39% support him. Here is the [article](#).

Thank you for your continued engagement with our content. We look forward to further discussions that will deepen your understanding and inform your strategic considerations. No. 2/2025

