



The Legislation Project

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The Clean Air Act

- The Clean Air Act was drafted in 1963 it is nation act enforced by the E.P.A.
- The amendment in the 1970 amendments greatly expanded the federal mandate, requiring comprehensive federal and state regulations for both stationary pollution sources and mobile sources
- The 1990 amendments addressed acid rain, ozone depletion and toxic air pollution, established a national permits program for stationary sources. The amendments also established new auto gasoline reformulation requirements
- The CAA limits emissions stationary and mobile sources of air pollutants

The Clean Water Act

- The Clean Water Act was drafted in 1972 it is a national act and is enforced by the E.P.A.
- Revisions in 1981 streamlined the municipal construction grants process, improving the capabilities of treatment plants built under the program.
- in 1987 phased out the construction grants program, replacing it with the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, more commonly known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This new funding strategy addressed water quality needs by building on EPA-state partnerships.
- Established the basic structure for regulating pollutants discharges into the waters of the United States. Maintained existing requirements to set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters. Made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained under its provisions. Funded the construction of sewage treatment plants under the construction grants program. Recognized the need for planning to address the critical problems posed by nonpoint source pollution.

The Safe Drinking Water Act

- The SDWA was drafted in 1974.
- Amended in 1986 to incorporate technological and scientific advances. Again, the act was amended in 1996 to add the “right-to-know” law. This allows citizens the right to access information about the chemicals in their local drinking water.
- The SDWA is a national legislation that ensures public drinking water meets appropriate safety standards, as set by the watchful eye of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

CERCLA or Superfund

- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act was drafted in 1980.
- Superfund was amended in 1986 and 1990 to account for growing populations, increases in pollution, and advances in technology.
- Superfund is a national legislation that is set up in order to clean up the nations uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. This law was enacted in the wake of the discovery of toxic dump sites, such as Love Canal. It is the job of the EPA to oversee the Superfund program.