

Federal Agencies to Implement Contingency Plans Following Government Shut-down: Update #5

Robert Szabo and Richard Agnew

While negotiations are ongoing to fund the federal government and raise the nation's debt limit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced the closure of all regulatory offices nationwide that had been previously operating despite the government shut-down. Additionally, the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced that the agency could continue operating at full staff for several more weeks.

A cumulative, updated report on the status of all federal departments and agencies that we have reviewed can be found on our [website](#).

AGENCY UPDATES

Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (UPDATE). The Corps [announced, effective today](#), the closure of all regulatory offices nationwide. The Corps will no longer be able to process individual permit applications (including Section 404 permits), pre-construction notifications for nationwide permits or regional general permit authorizations, or requests for jurisdictional determinations until after current year funding is received and the offices reopen.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (UPDATE). [FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff indicated](#) that he believes the agency could continue operating at full staff for "at least another couple of weeks." [Subscription required]. A FERC spokesman stated that there was no clear timetable for when normal business operations would cease if the shutdown continues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Van Ness Feldman's lawyers and lobbyists have worked for decades in both the public and private sectors to create, impact, shape, implement, and comply with the nation's major energy, environmental, natural resource, transportation, health care, tax, and other laws. The firm is recognized as a leader in Government Relations by Chambers USA and U.S. News/Best Law Firms. For questions regarding the current government shut-down and its potential impacts, please contact any member of the firm's Government Relations & Public Policy Practice at 202.298.1800.

Avi Zevin, Gabe Tabak, and Mike O'Neill, Van Ness Feldman's newest associates, contributed to this alert.

In February 2012, Van Ness Feldman expanded its capabilities by combining practices with the Seattle law firm of GordonDerr LLP, a preeminent real estate, land use, water law, and civil litigation firm in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more at www.vnf.com.