

Regulatory Compliance under the U.S Clean Water Act for Mitigation of Environmental Impacts

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Introduction

Section 316(a) of the U.S. Clean Water Act requires that regulatory authorities grant a source a variance from otherwise applicable thermal discharge limitations if the source demonstrates that less stringent limitations will protect the balanced indigenous population of biotic life in and on receiving waters. Section 316(b) requires that cooling water intake structures reflect "best technology available" (BTA) for minimizing adverse environmental impacts, such as harm to fish populations as a result of losses of individual fish due to impingement on intake screens or entrainment in a facility's cooling water system.