



FACT SHEET: Proposed Rollbacks by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) **Public Comment Period: May 16 – June 15, 2025**

What's Happening?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing two major rollbacks to long-standing civil rights protections that impact people with disabilities, people of color, and individuals with limited English proficiency. If adopted, these rollbacks could significantly limit access and equity in DOE-funded programs and facilities.

1. Section 504 – Disability Rights

Proposal: Repeal the DOE regulation that requires new construction and facility alterations funded by DOE to be accessible to people with disabilities.

What This Means:

- Removes enforceable design standards like the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS)
- Weakens accountability for accessibility in federally funded buildings
- Threatens decades of progress under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Bottom Line: New DOE-funded buildings could legally be built without accessibility features.

Read the full proposal:

[Federal Register – Section 504 Rollback](#)

Submit your comment:

[Regulations.gov – Docket DOE-HQ-2025-0015](#)

2. Title VI – Civil Rights Protections

Proposal: Remove key protections related to disparate impact, language access, and employment discrimination in DOE-funded programs.

What This Means:

- Makes it nearly impossible to prove discrimination unless intent is shown
- Eliminates the requirement to provide language access (e.g., materials in other languages)
- Undermines protections for employees when discrimination affects services to beneficiaries

Bottom Line: Makes civil rights harder to enforce—especially for people of color, non-English speakers, and those relying on inclusive employment practices.

Read the full proposal:

[Federal Register – Title VI Rollback](#)

Submit your comment:

[Regulations.gov – Docket DOE-HQ-2025-0024](#)

Why It Matters

These rollbacks:

- Threaten accessibility for people with disabilities
- Undermine racial and language equity
- Reverse progress made under landmark civil rights laws

Public comments close June 15, 2025.