

March 2025



Top Highlights

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

(*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales* or SEMARNAT)

- **Availability Zones in the Country's Basins and Aquifers for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025:** On March 31, 2025, SEMARNAT published the "Agreement whereby the availability zones corresponding to the country's basins and aquifers for FY 2025, in terms of the last paragraph of article 231 of the Federal Law of Rights in force" in the *Official Gazette of the Federation (Diario Oficial de la Federación or DOF)* in which it informed about the relative availability in the corresponding hydrological regions in Mexico.
- **National Water Commission (*Comisión Nacional del Agua* or CONAGUA) Concessions and Allocations:** On March 26, 2025, SEMARNAT published in the DOF the "Agreement establishing the Single Digital Window for Water Procedures and simplification actions for the procedures CONAGUA-01-003-A Concession/allocation of national surface waters and CONAGUA-01-004-A Concession/allocation of national groundwater, which are carried out before the National Water Commission," establishing the procedure and content of both applications to be submitted in that platform.
- **SEMARNAT's Internal Regulations:** On March 14, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales* or SEMARNAT) published the [internal regulations of the Ministry](#), which became effective on March 16, 2025, incorporating relevant changes in the faculties of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (*Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente* or **PROFEPA**). The most relevant items are a reorientation of environmental protection under "environmental justice," faculties in judicial actions and strengthening of prevention functions such as methodological risk examinations, among others.
- **Emission Factor of the 2024 National Electric System:** On Feb. 28, 2025, SEMARNAT published a notice by which it informed that the Energy Regulatory Commission determined the emission factor of the National Electric System (*Sistema Eléctrico Nacional* or SEN) for the calculation of indirect emissions of greenhouse effect phases due to electricity consumption for the year 2024 as 0.444 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per megawatt-hour (tCO₂e/MWh).
- **Environmental Electronic Platform:** On Jan. 8, 2025, SEMARNAT published in the DOF the "Agreement announcing the Environmental Electronic Platform (*Ventanilla Electrónica Ambiental* or VEA) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and establishing its operating bases." Its purpose is to expedite and streamline environmental procedures and services. Although the procedures have not been published, according to the National Commission for Regulatory Improvement (*Comisión Nacional de Mejora Regulatoria* or CONAMER) portal, the procedures will be concerning basic requests, notices or withdrawals related to 1) forest resources, 2) remediation, 3) emissions and hazardous waste and 4) environmental impact.

National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection in the Hydrocarbons Sector

(*Agencia Nacional de Seguridad Industrial y de Protección al Medio Ambiente del Sector Hidrocarburos* or ASEA)

- **NOM-004-ASEA-2017 Results Reports:** The agreement establishing the 2025 and 2026 program requiring the delivery of reports of results of the "Conformity Assessment of the Mexican Official Standard NOM-004-ASEA-2017, gasoline vapor recovery systems for emission control at retail gasoline service stations-Test methods for determining efficiency, maintenance and operating parameters" was published on Jan. 27, 2025. It establishes the obligation to install vapor recovery systems (*sistemas de recuperación de vapores* or SRV) in gasoline service stations to prevent the emission of volatile organic compounds and defines the methods of testing, evaluation, installation, operation, maintenance and periodic testing of these systems.

CONAGUA

- **Potable Water, Drainage and Treatment Program (*Programa de Agua Potable, Drenaje y Tratamiento* or PROAGUA):** On Feb. 21, 2025, the preliminary draft of the operating rules for PROAGUA, under the responsibility of CONAGUA, applicable as of 2025, was published on CONAMER's website. This federal program, managed by CONAGUA, provides subsidies to finance actions for the provision of drinking water, sewage and sanitation services. The program seeks to contribute to increasing and sustaining the coverage of water services in rural and urban areas.

National Banking and Securities Commission (*Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores* or CNBV)

- **Sustainability Reports:** On Jan. 28, 2025, the CNBV published the resolution that modifies the general provisions applicable to issuers of securities and other participants in the securities market. This resolution introduces mandatory requirements for the progressive presentation of sustainability disclosure reports aligned with international standards to implement transparency and comparability of environmental, social and governance (ESG) information in the Mexican securities market.

**Congress Report: What to Expect****National Water Law Initiative and Reforms to the National Water Law**

- CONAGUA has carried out analysis roundtables with users of national waters (agricultural and industrial sectors), academia, indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, as well as civil society organizations that stand out for their activism in the water sector, in order to integrate proposals for the consolidation of the human right to water that can be incorporated into the General Water Law draft and the reforms to the National Water Law.

New Electricity Sector Law (*Ley del Sector Eléctrico* or LESE) and
Hydrocarbons Sector Law (*Ley del Sector Hidrocarburos* or LESH)

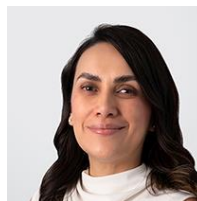
- **The new LESE** establishes that the Ministry of Energy must carry out prior consultation procedures for "infrastructure projects." Such consultation shall be prior, free, informed, in good faith, culturally appropriate, flexible, inclusive, transparent and with the duty of adequacy and reasonableness. The phases of the consultation include:
 - **Consultation plan:** Planning and establishment of consultation mechanisms
 - **Prior agreements:** Signing of a consultation protocol between the participants
 - **Informative:** Provide information about projects to communities
 - **Deliberative:** Period of dialogue within the community
 - **Advisory:** Construction of agreements or obtaining consent on the project, as well as the definition of access and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits associated with the project
- **The new LESH** establishes that those interested in obtaining a permit or authorization to develop hydrocarbon projects, as well as assignees and contractors, must include the public version of the energy sector's social impact statement in the application for authorization.

Contact Us



Rodolfo Rueda

Partner
Mexico City
+52.55.3602.0634
Houston
+1.713.244.8208
rodolfo.rueda@hklaw.com



Claudia Garcia

Senior Counsel
Mexico City
+52.55.3602.8060
claudia.garcia@hklaw.com



Mariana Salinas

Associate
Mexico City
+52.55.3602.8041
mariana.salinas@hklaw.com

Offices

Algiers | Atlanta | Austin | Birmingham | Bogotá | Boston | Century City | Charlotte | Chattanooga | Chicago | Dallas
Denver | Fort Lauderdale | Houston | Jacksonville | London | Los Angeles | Mexico City | Miami | Monterrey | Nashville
Newport Beach | New York | Orlando | Philadelphia | Portland | Richmond | San Francisco | Seattle | Stamford | Tallahassee
Tampa | Tysons | Washington, D.C. | West Palm Beach