

April 5, 2024

SEC Stays Its Climate Disclosure Requirements

On April 4, 2024, the SEC issued an order staying its recently adopted climate-related disclosure requirements pending the outcome of litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The rules, which were adopted on March 6, are the subject of numerous legal challenges, initially leading to a stay issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, but all of which have now been consolidated into one litigation in the Eighth Circuit. In its order, the SEC noted that "the Commission is not departing from its view that the [climate-related disclosure requirements] are consistent with applicable law and within the Commission's long-standing authority to require the disclosure of information important to investors in making investment and voting decisions" and that it would continue to vigorously defend the new rules in court. However, the SEC decided to voluntarily stay the rules to facilitate the orderly resolution of these challenges and to avoid companies being subject to the rules during the pendency of the litigation.

Despite these developments, we remind companies that there are numerous other climate-related disclosure requirements that are coming online, including those imposed by California and the European Union. While the California requirements are also being challenged, the EU requirements are expected to continue in force.

© 2024 Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. In some jurisdictions, this publication may be considered attorney advertising. Past representations are no guarantee of future outcomes.

This memorandum is not intended to provide legal advice, and no legal or business decision should be based on its content. Questions concerning issues addressed in this memorandum should be directed to:

Timothy Cruickshank

+1-212-373-3415

tcruickshank@paulweiss.com

David S. Huntington

+1-212-373-3124

dhuntington@paulweiss.com

Deirdre Jones

+44-20-7367-1605

djones@paulweiss.com

Matthew Merkle

+44-20-7367-1606

mmerkle@paulweiss.com

Frances F. Mi

+1-212-373-3185

fmi@paulweiss.com

Christopher J. Cummings

+1-212-373-3434

ccummings@paulweiss.com

Brian M. Janson

+1-212-373-3588

bjanson@paulweiss.com

Christodoulos Kaoutzanis

+1-212-373-3445

ckaoutzanis@paulweiss.com

Raphael M. Russo

+1-212-373-3309

rrusso@paulweiss.com

David Curran

Co-Chair, Sustainability & ESG Advisory

Practice

+1-212-373-2558

dcurran@paulweiss.com

Matthew R. Friedman

+44-20-7367-1617

mfriedman@paulweiss.com

Luke Jennings

+1-212-373-3591

ljennings@paulweiss.com

John C. Kennedy

+1-212-373-3025

jkennedy@paulweiss.com

Daniel J. Toal

+1-212-373-3869

dtoal@paulweiss.com

Practice Management Consultant Jane Danek and Sustainability & ESG Advisory Practice Director Madhuri Pavamani contributed to this Client Memorandum.