

Clean Energy & Sustainability

NEWSLETTER



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Small Modular Reactors and Data Centers: The Emerging Regulatory Landscape for Next-Generation Nuclear Power Supply

by RJ Colwell

As interconnection queues swell and natural gas clashes with net-zero commitments, data center developers are looking to small modular reactors as a potential carbon-free power solution. Several major partnerships are already taking shape – X-energy and Amazon, NuScale and Standard Power, TerraPower in Wyoming – though commercial deployment likely remains a mid-2030s prospect. Meanwhile, the regulatory landscape is developing in real time across NRC licensing, FERC jurisdiction, state siting, and self-supply classification, with Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah each positioning differently. Developers with long planning horizons should be engaging now. [Read more...](#)

Environmental Self-Audits: Legal Tools to Improve Environmental Compliance & Mitigate Regulatory Risks

by Melanie Granberg, Griffin Mansi, & Cole Killion

An environmental self-audit is a systematic, documented, and objective evaluation of how well an organization, its management systems, and its equipment perform and comply with respect to federal, state, and local environmental statutes, regulations, and permit provisions. When conducted properly, these detailed self-assessments can identify areas of non-compliance, inefficiencies, and opportunities for improvement before they become costly compliance issues. More broadly, environmental self-audits also lead to improved protection of human health and environment. [Read more...](#)

U.S. Produced Water: The Emerging Value Chain Reshaping Energy, Water & Critical Minerals

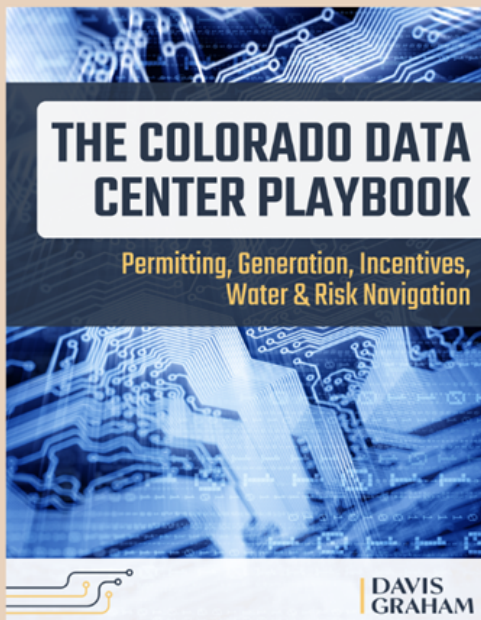
by RJ Colwell, Brian Annes, Lindsay Dofelmier, & Zach Miller

Produced water – the fluid that surfaces alongside oil and gas during extraction, typically carrying high concentrations of dissolved salts and minerals – has long been the industry’s largest waste stream and one of its most persistent cost centers. That is changing. A convergence of disposal constraints, treatment technology advances, legislative reform, institutional-scale capital deployment, and the strategic importance of critical minerals is transforming produced water from a disposal liability into a managed resource. Across multiple U.S. basins, produced water is now at the center of billion-dollar infrastructure transactions, first-of-a-kind treatment and mineral extraction projects, and a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape that cuts across state, federal, and Tribal jurisdictions. [Read more...](#)

Colorado Data Center Playbook

Davis Graham is proud to launch The Colorado Data Center Playbook, a practical and in-depth resource designed to help organizations navigate one of the most rapidly evolving areas of infrastructure development. The Colorado Data Center Playbook offers detailed technical guidance on Colorado-specific data center development, including permitting timelines, regulatory frameworks, water strategy, and co-located generation pathways.

Learn more about Davis Graham’s Power & Data Center Group and download the Colorado Data Center Playbook [here](#).



The Colorado Data Center Playbook

About Davis Graham's Clean Energy & Sustainability Practice

For more than 100 years, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP has been synonymous with sophisticated legal experience in the energy sector. Our Clean Energy & Sustainability Group offers comprehensive support for clean energy projects, including financing, site acquisition/control, permitting, environmental compliance, and contracts. We manage projects relating to wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen, biomass, renewable energy storage, and carbon capture, and sequestration. We provide guidance on federal, state, and local regulatory compliance, interconnection agreements, power purchase agreements and tax incentives. In addition, we advise on ESG, sustainability practices, and compliance with the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda. Our multidisciplinary approach and proximity to key renewable ventures ensure clients receive expert counsel in planning, financing, and expanding their clean energy operations.