

Client Alert

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Patent Office to Accelerate Examination of Green Technology Patent Applications

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recently announced a new pilot program to accelerate the examination of patent applications directed to certain “green” technologies, e.g., technologies for enhancing environmental quality, conserving energy, developing renewable energy sources, or reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Patent applications are typically examined in the order they are filed. The Patent Office estimates that it currently takes approximately 40 months to reach a final examination decision for green technology patent applications. Applications that qualify for the new program will be examined out of turn thereby reducing the time to reach a final examination decision by one year on average.

A petition must be filed and approved to enter the program. Although there is no cost to file the petition, only applications that are classified in certain U.S. patent classifications will be accepted and the program is currently limited to 3000 applications. Although the USPTO may later expand the program, we recommend that petitions for eligible applications be filed as soon as possible.

For more information about this subject please contact Anthony Gangemi at (203) 498-4395 or agangemi@wiggin.com.

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