

Administrative Order Extends "Essential Construction" To Religious Facilities

On May 2, 2020, Patrick Callahan, New Jersey State Director of Emergency Management and the Superintendent of State Police, issued an Administrative Order extending Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order 122 (EO 122) to cover religious facilities.

As outlined in our [April 9, 2020 Client Alert](#), EO 122 specifically allows work to proceed on certain "essential construction projects" in New Jersey, provided that such work is performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Order. EO 122 also authorizes the State Director of Emergency Management to utilize his discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions and exclusions to the terms of the Order. Under this authority, Mr. Callahan issued Administrative Order No. 2020-11, providing that construction of new religious facilities or construction involving existing religious facilities shall be considered "essential construction projects" under EO 122.

The Administrative Order further requires that such religious projects comply with Paragraph 3 of EO 122, which sets forth the following conditions for essential construction projects to proceed:

In addition, religious projects must adopt the worker health, safety and welfare policies outlined in [Paragraph 4 of EO 122](#).

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