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General Comment

ESG investing allows a plan administrator to consider a broad array of social governance and environmental factors that may affect investments. It allows plan participants to invest consistent with their values which can have a positive effect in their willingness to take advantage of investment opportunities. The rule wrongly prohibits such approaches and takes the perverse position that recognizing factors that may hurt investments, such as in fossil fuels in the last decade due to climate change, is inappropriate, notwithstanding numerous studies showing its advantage. The rule should be withdrawn.