



# PERMITTING COUNCIL

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## Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council



# Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request



# Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request

### Table of Contents

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<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FY 2022 Budget Summary and Highlights.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Appropriations Language.....	5
Analysis of Language Provisions.....	5
FY 2022 Request.....	5
Program Description .....	6
FY 2020 Program Accomplishments.....	7
FY 2021 Program Highlights.....	9
Summary of Request.....	10
Explanation of Changes .....	12
Adjustments to Base .....	13
Program Changes .....	13
<b>Appendix A – Detailed Tables .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Amounts Available for Obligation.....	15
Obligations by Object Classification .....	16
<b>Appendix B – Legislative Proposal.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix C – Example of Permitting Dashboard Entry .....</b>	<b>19</b>



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## Overview

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The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) requests \$10.65 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022 to fully cover the programs and initiatives highlighted in this budget request, as well as salaries and expenses for expert staff (including 17 full-time equivalents (FTE), interagency agreements, and contract support). This request reflects a \$650,000, or 6.5 percent, increase from the FY 2021 enacted level of \$10 million. The budget also requests the removal of the statutory sunset for the Permitting Council (*see* 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-12), which currently is set for December 4, 2022 (*see* Appendix B). The current sunset creates problems for the execution of the Permitting Council’s statutory mission because: (i) the review and permitting process for most currently covered projects will extend beyond the sunset date; (ii) it is difficult for the Office of the Executive Director to hire and retain skilled staff in light of impending agency dissolution; and (iii) project sponsors are disincentivized from seeking FAST-41 coverage when the agency is scheduled to come to an end before environmental review and permitting can be completed for any new project.

This budget request supports the Permitting Council’s mission to yield FAST-41 benefits for covered projects by:

- Coordinating interagency efforts to foster early and meaningful stakeholder engagement as well as early communication of project goals, discussion of alternatives, and alignment of agency review schedules;
- Promoting better solutions to environmental permitting and authorization challenges;
- Sharing best practices to effectively understand, assess and evaluate projects;
- Developing tools and resources intended to improve Permitting Council member agencies’ project oversight and decision-making processes, eliminating needless duplication, providing for a more consistent process, and promoting good governance;
- Promoting Federal-state coordination (states can opt-in to FAST-41);
- Improving tribal coordination and consultation;
- Engaging Federal agencies and project sponsors to foster improved communication and clarify expectations;
- Mediating disputes between project sponsors and relevant agencies related to FAST-41 projects’ permitting timetables; and
- Publicly providing transparency, predictability, and certainty in the permitting process by mandating coordinated timetables posted on the Permitting Dashboard. *See* [www.permits.performance.gov](http://www.permits.performance.gov); Appendix C.

Established in 2015 by Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41), the Permitting Council is charged with improving the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the Federal environmental review and authorization processes for large-scale critical infrastructure projects that are central to the United States’ national security, economic growth, sustainability, and sustained job creation. The Permitting Council is comprised of the Permitting Council Executive Director, who serves as the Council Chair; 13 Federal agency council members (including deputy secretary-level designees of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Army, Commerce, Interior, Energy, Transportation, Defense, Homeland Security, and Housing and

Urban Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chairmen of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation); and additional council members, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The Permitting Council coordinates over 60 Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 “covered” infrastructure projects in the following sectors:

- 
- Conventional energy production
  - Renewable energy production
  - Electricity transmission
  - Surface transportation \*
  - Aviation \*
  - Ports and waterways \*
  - Water resource projects \*
  - Broadband
  - Pipelines
  - Manufacturing
  - Mining
  - Carbon dioxide pipelines (including carbon sequestration)
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\* Except as expressly provided in 42 U.S.C. 4370m–2(f) and 23 U.S.C. 139(o), the requirements and other provisions of FAST-41 shall not apply to programs administered by DOT or its operating administrations under title 23, 46, or 49, United States Code, and any project subject to section 2045 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2348).

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The Permitting Council facilitates a more deliberate and informed agency review and decision-making process for covered infrastructure projects, without sacrificing positive environmental and community outcomes, through implementing strategic public outreach strategies, meaningful project sponsor engagement, providing targeted no-year funds to Permitting Council member agencies to relieve environmental review and permitting bottlenecks, technical support, best practice identification and agency implementation, dispute resolution services, and realistic, transparent permitting timetable development and management on the public-facing Permitting Dashboard.

Participation in the FAST-41 process is voluntary, and sponsors of projects that qualify under specific statutory criteria apply to obtain FAST-41 coverage. FAST-41 coverage does not alter any applicable statutory or regulatory requirement, environmental law, regulation, or review process, or public involvement procedure. FAST-41 coverage does not predetermine the outcome of any Federal decision-making process with respect to any covered project.

The Permitting Council’s covered project portfolio comprises over \$220 billion in infrastructure investment, with an average cost per FAST-41 covered project that exceeds many states’ annual transportation construction budgets. The Permitting Council’s covered project portfolio represents up to 108,000 temporary jobs and 4,100 permanent jobs. The FY 2021 portfolio of active projects currently undergoing Federal review includes a total potential economic investment of \$57.7 billion, and includes 14 renewable energy production projects, two pipeline projects, two water resource projects, two conventional energy production projects, one electricity transmission project, and one ports and waterways project. Seventy-seven percent of the FY 2021 portfolio is renewable energy, coastal restoration, and electricity transmission projects. Fifty percent of the FY 2021 portfolio is offshore wind projects, which represent half

the 30,000-megawatt target for offshore wind set by the White House on March 29, 2021, and a majority of the 16 offshore wind projects for which the White House directed agencies to complete the permitting process by the end of 2024. The offshore wind project portfolio alone represents a ten-fold increase in the number of environmental reviews and authorizations that are subject to the FAST-41 program when compared to FY 2020, many of which involve the same regions, districts, and field offices of Permitting Council member agencies.



The Permitting Council has thus far succeeded in achieving its statutory mission, as documented annually in the Executive Director’s Annual Reports to Congress from 2016 through 2020. In the most recent Annual Report to Congress, the Executive Director reported on the Permitting Council’s coordination of Federal reviews for 28 FAST-41 covered projects, which represented \$107 billion in total economic investment and up to 57,000 new jobs. This included the first four covered projects to complete the entire FAST-41 process—one solar, one wind, one gas, and one electricity transmission project—which collectively represent \$45 billion in economic investment, up to 20,000 construction jobs, and 10 years in Federal environmental review and permitting time savings.



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## **FY 2022 Budget Summary and Highlights**

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### **Appropriations Language**

FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IMPROVEMENT FUND  
[(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)]

For necessary expenses of the Environmental Review Improvement Fund established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(d), [\$10,000,000] *\$10,650,000*, to remain available until expended[: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in prior appropriations Acts under the heading “General Services Administration—General Activities—Environmental Review Improvement Fund” shall be transferred to and merged with this account].

### **Analysis of Language Provisions**

This budget request provides appropriations for the Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF) for operations of the Permitting Council, including the Permitting Council’s Office of the Executive Director, and provides no-year funds to Permitting Council member agencies to facilitate review and authorization of projects covered by Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). This appropriation allows the Permitting Council to implement and oversee compliance with the statutory requirements set forth FAST-41.

The budget request removes a provision from fiscal years 2020 and 2021 allowing for the transfer of prior appropriated funds to the independent Permitting Council appropriation. This provision is no longer needed, as all funds previously appropriated to the GSA ERIF have been transferred to and merged with the Permitting Council’s ERIF.

### **FY 2022 Request**

The Permitting Council is requesting \$10.65 million in FY 2022 to fully cover the programs and initiatives highlighted in this budget request, as well as salaries and expenses for expert staff (including 17 FTE, interagency agreements, and contract support) that provide neutral expertise and leadership on improving relationships, resolving logjams, and identifying critical paths for decision making on covered projects. This request reflects an increase of \$650,000, or 6.5 percent, from the FY 2021 enacted level of \$10 million. The Permitting Council is also requesting an increase of 5 positions and 5 FTE.

**FY 2020 - FY 2022 Comparison of Appropriations**  
(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

<b>Budget Account</b>	<b>FY 2020 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2021 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2022 Request</b>	<b>FY 2021 to FY 2022 Change</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Expenses</b>	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,650	+\$650
Positions	12	12	17	+5
FTE	12	12	17	+5

**Program Description**

In recognition of the permitting challenges faced by large-scale infrastructure projects, FAST-41 established the Permitting Council and the Office of the Executive Director to act as a reliable Federal partner and “one-stop” resource within the Federal government to provide consistent and transparent coordination across Federal agencies in the environmental review and authorization of FAST-41 covered infrastructure projects. The Permitting Council achieves this coordination in a way that respects agencies’ responsibility to protect the public and the environment, while also encouraging early and meaningful coordination with all stakeholders, including state and local government officials, Tribes, and the public. Earnest outreach and consultation with all stakeholders, regardless of their position in support of or opposition to a project, is critical for identifying important impacts and alternatives, and fostering a proposed design that would best serve the public interest.

Infrastructure projects covered under FAST-41 benefit from the following:

- Coordinated, interagency efforts to foster early and meaningful stakeholder engagement as well as early communication of project goals, discussion of alternatives, and alignment of agency review schedules (*see* Program Changes, “Development of GIS Screening Tool”);
- Better solutions to environmental permitting and authorization challenges;
- Targeted no-year financial and technical support for Permitting Council member agencies;
- Shared best practices to effectively understand, assess and evaluate projects;
- Tools and resources intended to improve Permitting Council agencies’ project oversight and decision-making processes, elimination of needless duplication, a more consistent process, and good governance;
- Enhanced Federal-state coordination since states can opt in to FAST-41;
- Improved tribal coordination and consultation;
- Engaged Federal agencies and project sponsors to foster improved communication and clarify expectations;
- Mediated disputes between project sponsors and relevant agencies related to FAST-41 projects’ permitting timetables; and
- Publicly provided transparency, predictability, and certainty in the permitting process via mandated coordinated timetables posted on the Permitting Dashboard (*see* Program

Changes, “Additional Permitting Dashboard Support”; [www.permits.performance.gov](http://www.permits.performance.gov); Appendix C for a sample Permitting Dashboard page).

Participation in the FAST-41 process is voluntary, and sponsors of projects that qualify under specific statutory criteria apply to obtain FAST-41 coverage. FAST-41 does not modify or affect any Federal statute, regulation, or required environmental review. FAST-41 coverage also does not predetermine the outcome of any Federal decision-making process with respect to any covered project.

As an impartial Federal partner overseeing the Federal permitting process, the Office of the Executive Director does not have a regulatory role, and does not have authority to intervene on the substance of a Permitting Council member agency’s decision or permitting outcome. The Office of the Executive Director is charged with supporting agencies’ development and adherence to a reliable permitting schedule through enhanced coordination with Federal and state agencies, determining whether a project is a FAST-41 covered project, mediating permitting timetable disputes, and developing and helping agencies implement review and permitting best practices.

The Permitting Council’s programs and initiatives reflect the current and near-term needs of the FAST-41 project portfolio with many of the active FY 2021 projects just beginning the Federal review and authorization process that will continue throughout FY 2022 and beyond.

The Office of the Executive Director works closely with Permitting Council member agencies to identify immediate or upcoming needs to further successful FAST-41 implementation for covered projects, and identify, provide, or transfer resources to Permitting Council member agencies address those needs. The following section highlights several such actions taken by the Office of the Executive Director during FY 2021 that will continue into FY 2022 to ensure successful FAST-41 implementation for covered projects.

### **FY 2020 Program Accomplishments**

The portfolio of FAST-41 covered projects on the Permitting Dashboard in FY 2020 included 52 projects across a range of critical infrastructure sectors representing \$209 billion in economic investment and 136,000 permanent and temporary jobs. Project sponsor demand for Permitting Council services and FAST-41 benefits resulted in a 33 percent increase in active covered projects in FY 2020 and a 60 percent increase in covered projects since the Permitting Council began adding Projects to the Permitting Dashboard in 2016.



In FY 2020, four voluntary, large-scale infrastructure projects completed the permitting process:

- **Gemini Solar**, a \$1 billion, 690-megawatt solar project in Nevada that will be the largest solar photovoltaic and battery storage facility on federally-managed lands, and one of the largest renewable energy projects of its kind in the world.
- **Borderlands Wind**, a \$200 million, 100-megawatt wind project that will deliver renewable energy to the Four Corners region, which was reviewed and approved in less than two years under FAST-41.
- **Alaska LNG**, a \$38 billion project consisting of an 807-mile natural gas pipeline, a gas treatment plant, a gas transmission line, and a liquefaction facility, which is one of the largest and most complex infrastructure projects in modern U.S. history.
- **Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV Transmission Line**, a \$500 million, 102-mile transmission line project that will connect facilities in Iowa and Wisconsin, increasing the capacity and reliability of the regional transmission system and expanding access to lower-cost electricity and renewable energy generation.

These four projects represent more than \$45 billion in economic investment and approximately 20,000 permanent and temporary jobs. As a result of Permitting Council efforts, the permitting process for these projects was completed within weeks of initial FAST-41 permitting schedules, representing a total of more than ten years in time savings compared to non-FAST-41 projects. The Permitting Council delivered these results by implementing a coordinated, deliberate, and rational process for reviewing and implementing infrastructure projects that maximize domestic investment and sustainable job creation.

The Office of the Executive Director continued making strides in FY 2020 and into FY 2021 toward increasing coordination, efficiency, transparency, and predictability throughout the environmental review and permitting process by focusing efforts on the following areas:

- **Increasing on-the-ground engagement:** In FY 2020, the Executive Director and staff participated in 23 outreach events, traveled to 27 cities and 15 states, and visited 31 project sites.
- **Enhancing coordination and consultation with Tribes:** The Office of the Executive Director laid the groundwork on tribal initiatives designed to facilitate early outreach and ongoing communication with Tribes, which will further inform Federal agencies' decision-making processes and, in turn, reduce infrastructure permitting delays.
- **Facilitating a shift to proactive project planning and management:** The Office of the Executive Director hosted and co-hosted FAST-41 virtual implementation trainings focused on sharing its best practices, tools, and resources that can move agencies and project sponsors away from reactive problem-solving and toward successful project management. Nearly 300 participants and more than 20 Federal agencies attended Office of the Executive Director trainings in FY 2020.
- **Encouraging alignment and harmonization:** The Office of the Executive Director created a Milestone Planning Tool designed to help agencies and project sponsors develop an accurate and realistic permitting timetable in the FAST-41 coordinated project plan, track upcoming deadlines, and easily adjust dates as needed.

- **Utilizing GIS in environmental decision-making:** The Office of the Executive Director worked with OMB, CEQ, and DOT to review how the standardization or enhancement of GIS and geospatial data in environmental decision-making can offer efficiencies to agencies and project applicants. Through investment in GIS tools and resources, the Office of the Executive Director and its partners hold the potential to make a meaningful impact on the transparency and quality of the environmental review and permitting process.

### **FY 2021 Program Highlights**

- **Early Stakeholder Engagement and Permitting Environmental Review Strategy and Support:** The Office of the Executive Director focuses on fostering early stakeholder engagement and environmental review and permitting strategy and support through the facilitation of virtual interagency project meetings (due to COVID-19), including participation and engagement by Permitting Council Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officers (CERPOs) and their support staff, state agencies, and project sponsors to discuss the proposed project, potential impacts, opportunities to avoid or minimize potential impacts, and development of required coordinated project plans and a publicly-posted timetable comprising all authorizations as required under FAST-41. The Office of the Executive Director utilizes its interagency agreement with the Department of Transportation’s Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (the Volpe Center) to work with Office of the Executive Director staff and Permitting Council member agencies to identify permitting efficiencies that can be used to provide consistency in agency processes that will reduce potential permitting process uncertainties, miscommunications, and avoidable delays.
- **Permitting Council Interagency Agreements:** The Office of the Executive Director established agreements with Permitting Council member agencies to leverage technical expertise and resource availability across the Permitting Council to successfully deliver FAST-41 benefits for covered projects. This is a bi-directional effort that was utilized to great effect in FY 2021 to support FAST-41 implementation across the covered project portfolio, where the Office of the Executive Director can provide funds to Permitting Council member agencies to provide targeted capacity increases to facilitate environmental review and authorization of FAST-41 covered projects. The Office of the Executive Director also established interagency agreements to maintain a “think tank” of permitting experts from Permitting Council member agencies to work as detailees to the Office of the Executive Director to help formulate and implement Permitting Council programs and initiatives.
- **Tribal Consultation for FAST-41 Infrastructure Projects:** The Office of the Executive Director continues to work to improve tribal consultation with respect to FAST-41 covered projects through the development of three linked programs over the course of FY 2021 that continue into FY 2022.
  - 1) ***Enhancing and expanding HUD’s Tribal Directory Assistance Tool (TDAT).*** Phase 1 enhancements to TDAT initiated in FY 2021 will allow Permitting Council member agencies to use TDAT as a single, public database for identifying and

notifying Tribes on matters related to FAST-41 covered infrastructure projects that impact their land or cultural property.

2) ***Improving Government-to-Government consultation on FAST-41 covered projects.***

In FY 2021, the Office of the Executive Director is working with the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation’s John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (the Udall Foundation) to develop and provide training for the Office of the Executive Director and Permitting Council member agencies that focuses on improving intergovernmental relations. The Office of the Executive Director and the Udall Foundation have already established an advisory group of stakeholders, including representatives from Permitting Council member agencies, that will provide high-level input on and validation of content developed throughout this initiative. The Udall Foundation also will issue a report on best practices to enhance Government-to-Government consultations.

3) ***Improving tribal capacity to participate in environmental review and permitting of FAST-41 covered projects and access available information.***

In FY 2021, the Office of the Executive Director is working with the Volpe Center to design and develop a training program for tribal governments to educate them on FAST-41 and the Tribes’ unique role as stakeholders in the environmental review and authorization of FAST-41 covered projects. The initial program will include a request for feedback from Tribes and Permitting Council member agencies, which will be used to update the virtual pilot module and develop a more detailed training program.

- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Needs:** The Office of the Executive Director formed a working group, which included OMB, CEQ, and DOT, to explore the use of GIS data in environmental review and permitting, and the potential creation of a government-wide GIS permitting resource. The working group identified essential GIS data and tools needed to inform the environmental review and permitting process through an online survey and focus group interviews. From this initial review, the working group identified lack of resources, outdated GIS data, inaccessible technology, and disproportionate experiences and capabilities as barriers to using GIS data in the environmental review and permitting process. The working group also identified three actions that could be implemented individually, or together, to address these barriers and help close the data and information gap: (i) create a robust geospatial data inventory; (ii) develop a GIS application; and (iii) cultivate GIS training and learning opportunities.

### **Summary of Request**

In recognition of the permitting challenges faced by large-scale infrastructure projects, FAST-41 established the Permitting Council and the Office of the Executive Director to act as a reliable Federal partner and “one-stop” resource within the Federal government to provide consistent and transparent coordination across Federal agencies in the environmental review and authorization of FAST-41 covered infrastructure projects. The Permitting Council achieves this coordination in a way that respects agencies’ responsibility to protect the public and the environment, while also encouraging early and meaningful coordination with all stakeholders, including state and local government officials, Tribes, and the public. In addition, the Office of the Executive Director serves as an impartial third party that shepherds projects from beginning to the end of the

environmental review and permitting process. Office of the Executive Director staff works closely with Permitting Council agencies to support, monitor, and assess FAST-41 implementation throughout the intra- and inter-agency permitting processes.

The FY 2022 budget request will allow the Office of the Executive Director, along with contract support staff and agency detailees, to continue to facilitate increasingly timely and efficient environmental reviews and permitting authorizations by:

- Coordinating interagency efforts to foster early and meaningful stakeholder engagement as well as early communication of project goals, discussion of alternatives, and alignment of agency review schedules.
- Promoting better solutions to environmental permitting and authorization challenges
- Sharing best practices to effectively understand, assess, and evaluate projects.
- Developing tools and resources intended to improve Permitting Council member agencies' project oversight and decision-making processes, eliminating needless duplication, providing for a more consistent process, and promoting good governance.
- Promoting Federal-state coordination (states can opt in to FAST-41).
- Improving tribal coordination and consultation.
- Engaging Federal agencies and project sponsors to foster improved communication and clarify expectations.
- Mediating disputes between project sponsors and relevant agencies related to FAST-41 projects' permitting timetables.
- Publicly providing transparency, predictability, and certainty in the permitting process by mandating coordinated timetables posted on the Permitting Dashboard (*see* [www.permits.performance.gov](http://www.permits.performance.gov); Appendix C).

This budget request for FY 2022 also continues support for several key initiatives to enhance coordination between Federal and non-Federal entities, as well as facilitate early stakeholder outreach and tribal engagement, to further inform Federal agencies' environmental review and decision-making processes. One such example is the Office of the Executive Director's continued to work to improve tribal consultation with respect to FAST-41 covered projects through the development of three linked programs:

***1) Enhancing and expanding HUD's TDAT.***

Phase 2 enhancements supported in FY 2022 will add GIS functionality to allow for map-based queries, while continued funding will ensure regular updates to the database to maintain its accuracy.

***2) Improving Government-to-Government consultation processes in partnership with the Federal agencies responsible for consulting with Tribes on FAST-41 covered projects.***

In FY 2022, Permitting Council member agencies will participate in workshops that aim to clarify roles, responsibilities, and strategies for operationalizing best practices for improving tribal engagement based on the Udall Foundation report on best practices to enhance Government-to-Government consultations.

**3) *Improving tribal capacity to participate in FAST-41 covered project environmental review and authorization and increase access to available information.***

Building off work done with the Volpe Center, the Office of the Executive Director plans to host regional and local tribal listening sessions and forums in FY 2022 to identify opportunities for process improvements, such as early consultation initiation, effectual information exchange, and increased coordination between Federal agencies and tribal governments to facilitate clear, transparent, and meaningful Government-to-Government communication.

The Office of the Executive Director requests additional resources to support operations, maintenance, and further enhancements to the Permitting Dashboard in support of improved, government-wide GIS data availability, applications, and training to further implement Permitting Council best practices regarding GIS data availability and utilization. The Office of the Executive Director also proposes to tailor an existing GIS screening tool specifically to support environmental review and permitting of FAST-41 covered projects. A screening tool that leverages the existing inventory of Federal and state GIS resources will help agencies identify potential major project issues much earlier in the review and permitting process, allow the Office of the Executive Director to work with project sponsors and Permitting Council member agencies to resolve them earlier and more decisively, and lead to more timely reviews and better community and environmental outcomes.

**Explanation of Changes**

**FY 2021 to FY 2022 Budget Changes**  
(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Positions</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>FY 2021 Enacted</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Adjustments to Base</b>			
Annualized 2021 and 2022 pay raise	37		
Within-grades and other personnel cost increases	962	5	5
GSA rent decrease	-181		
Inflation and other mandatory adjustments	13		
Program savings and non-recurring initiatives	-631		
<b>Total, Adjustments to Base</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
Development of GIS screening tool	150		
Additional Permitting Dashboard support	300		
<b>Total, Program Changes</b>	<b>\$450</b>		
<b>Total, FY 2022 Request</b>	<b>\$10,650</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

## Adjustments to Base

- **Annualize 2021 and 2022 Pay Raise:** The budget request reflects the impact of the Federal civilian pay raise of 2.7 percent beginning in January 2022 and the pay raise of 1 percent beginning in January 2021 for the three months falling in FY 2022.
- **Within-grades and Other Personnel Cost Increases:** The Office of the Executive Director continues to internalize business functions to rely less on external support services. By transitioning to permanent staff, the Office of the Executive Director will be able to capitalize on the unique intellectual properties needed to execute critical and complex FAST-41 responsibilities and maintain the necessary continuity of knowledge, skills, and abilities. The FY 2022 budget reflects an increase of 5 positions and 5 FTE to continue this transition. Costs associated with the increase in personnel is offset by reductions in other program areas.
- **GSA Rent Decrease:** In FY 2022, the Office of the Executive Director will reduce its office space footprint in order to streamline agency operations. The budget request reflects the savings associated with this change.
- **Inflation and Other Mandatory Adjustments:** The budget request reflects projected increases in security fees and service fees for financial management, human resources, information technology, and contract support.
- **Program Savings and Non-recurring Initiatives:** The Office of the Executive Director will use reductions due to the conclusion of non-recurring initiatives and other program savings in order to fund higher priority activities within the agency, including transitioning many business functions from external support services to additional permanent Office of the Executive Director staff.

## Program Changes

- **GIS-Based Tool Development and Utilization:** In FY 2022, the Office of the Executive Director, in cooperation with its GIS working group partners, will work to implement short-term identified solutions that can leverage the existing inventory of Federal and state GIS resources. This GIS working group will continue analyzing the potential for broader or government-wide GIS resources and tools to improve the transparency and quality of the environmental review and permitting process.

Separately, the Office of the Executive Director will tailor an existing GIS-based tool for use by staff to support member agencies and project sponsors in quickly identifying participating and cooperating agencies (Federal, state, and local government agencies) that are likely to have permitting responsibilities based on the location of a proposed covered project. Early identification of agencies that should immediately be involved in FAST-41 coordination discussions will help identify potential issues and resolve them earlier and more decisively, leading to more timely development of realistic timetables (due within 60 days per FAST-41 requirements) and accurately identify agency roles and responsibilities in the FAST-41

coordinated project plans (also due within 60 days per FAST-41 requirements). The Office of the Executive Director requests \$150,000 to support this effort.

- **Additional Permitting Dashboard**

**Support:** The Office of the Executive Director requests an increase of \$300,000 to support the Permitting Dashboard in FY 2022. Through a cost-sharing agreement with DOT, Office of the Executive Director funds will be used to fund most of the operations, maintenance, and licensing costs of the website, along with several new enhancements to improve usability. The enhancements funded will improve data integrity, enhance security, and address the public-facing side of the Dashboard.



Specifically, enhancements will allow for additional quality assurance and control practices through modified Permitting Dashboard workflow procedures and access controls that will lead to complete, accurate data that are key to transparency and accountability in the permitting process and essential for collecting the two years of data necessary to update the Recommended Performance Schedules. New dynamic reporting and visualization enhancements for the Dashboard are being studied to ensure that the Permitting Dashboard better aligns with Administration priorities. Project sponsors and the public will have additional enhanced transparency into the effectiveness of the permitting process.



## Appendix A – Detailed Tables

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### Amounts Available for Obligation

#### FY 2020 - FY 2022 Amounts Available for Obligation

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2022 Request</b>
<b>Resources</b>			
Available from prior year	-	\$2,880	\$3,722
Appropriation	\$8,000	10,000	10,650
Transfer from other account	1,008	842	-
<b>Total resources available</b>	<b>\$9,008</b>	<b>\$13,722</b>	<b>\$14,372</b>
<b>Obligations</b>			
Labor	2,394	3,909	5,359
Non-labor	3,734	6,091	5,291
<b>Total obligations</b>	<b>\$6,128</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,650</b>
<b>Resources less obligations</b>	<b>\$2,880</b>	<b>\$3,722</b>	<b>\$3,722</b>



**Obligations by Object Classification**

**FY 2020 - FY 2022 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification**

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2022 Request</b>
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$2,244	\$3,333	\$4,370
12.0 Personnel benefits	151	576	989
<b>Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits</b>	<b>\$2,394</b>	<b>\$3,909</b>	<b>\$5,359</b>
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	86	100	300
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	314	302	121
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	1	-	-
24.0 Printing and reproduction	-	2	2
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	3,298	5,594	4,732
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	-	2	2
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	18	38	40
26.0 Supplies and materials	11	34	75
31.0 Equipment	4	20	20
<b>Total, Non-Labor</b>	<b>\$3,734</b>	<b>\$6,091</b>	<b>\$5,291</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,128</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,650</b>

## **Appendix B – Legislative Proposal**

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### FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL

*SEC. \_\_\_\_ . Section 41013 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m–12) is repealed.*



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# Appendix C – Example of Permitting Dashboard Entry

An official website of the United States government: <https://www.usa.gov>

BECOME A FAST-41 PROJECT

**PERMITTING DASHBOARD**  
FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ABOUT PROJECTS RESOURCES & TOOLS FAST-41 SCORECARD

Home

## Ocean Wind Project

PROJECT WEBSITE: Ocean Wind

All dates below are specific to the schedule of the Environmental Review and Permitting processes for this project.



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING STATUS  
IN PROGRESS



ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING  
06/29/2023



Primary Location  
39.196927, -74.235629

### Lead Agency Information:

POC Name: Brian Krevor  
POC Title: NEPA Team Lead  
POC Email: [brian.krevor@boem.gov](mailto:brian.krevor@boem.gov)  
Agency/Department: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### Sponsor Contact Information:

Project Sponsor: Orsted  
POC Name: Pilar Patterson  
POC Title: Permit Manager  
POC Email: [pilpa@orsted.com](mailto:pilpa@orsted.com)

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING PROCESSES COMPLETED



SECTOR  
Renewable Energy Production



CATEGORY  
FAST-41 Covered Projects  
Major Infrastructure Projects



LEAD AGENCY  
Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### Other Agencies with Actions or Authorizations:



Department of the Army,  
US Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory



Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service



Environmental Protection Agency



Department of the Army,  
US Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works

[View less...](#)

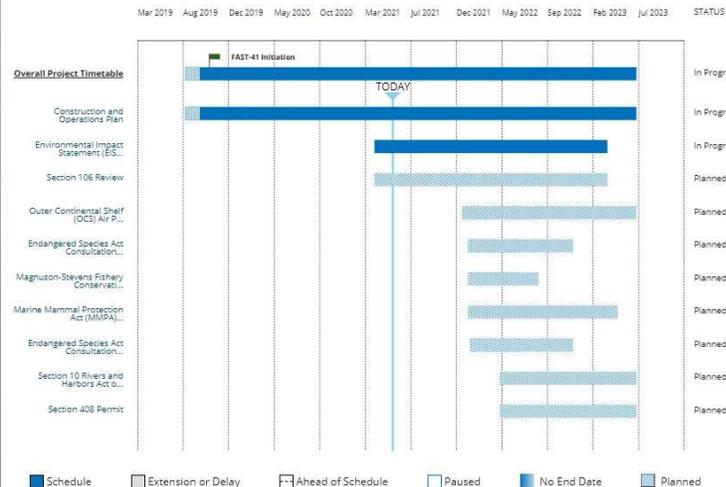
### Description:

OCW intends to develop, build, operate, and own (through one or more affiliated special purpose entities) a utility-scale offshore wind farm located approximately 15 miles off the coast of New Jersey within the Lease Area (the "Project"). The Project is being developed to serve the New Jersey market pursuant to the ongoing State of New Jersey's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act Section 4 procurement process, administered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBP"). OCW was the sole beneficiary of New Jersey's first 1,100 MW solicitation. Additional projects may also be developed within the Lease Area in the future in support of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order Number 8, which established a goal of developing 3.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030.1 Further solicitations by the NJBP of 1,200 MW each are expected in 2020 and 2022.

### Permitting Timetable

The permitting timetable below displays data as reported by agencies. Dates for Environmental Review and Permitting processes (Actions) that are in 'Paused' or 'Planned' status are subject to change and are not indicative of a project's final schedule.

- For information about extensions, select an Action from the timetable below and select 'View Action Details' at the bottom of the page.



### Action Information

For additional information, please select an Action from the Permitting Timetable above.