

The Permitting Council

Where Projects See Progress

What is the Permitting Council?

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) is dedicated to making the federal environmental review and authorization process better coordinated, more collaborative, and ultimately more efficient for projects nationwide. We work closely with government agencies and stakeholders across industry to share best practices for identifying and resolving the permitting roadblocks that can slow down the buildout of critical infrastructure. If you have a project that requires federal environmental review, look to the Permitting Council for permitting assistance to ensure your project sees progress through required reviews and authorizations.

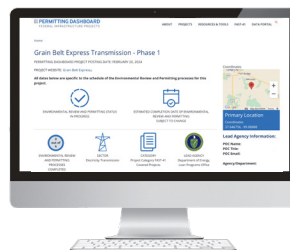
What is FAST-41?

The Permitting Council was created by Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act. Through FAST-41 the Council brings individual agencies, Tribes, project sponsors, states and communities together to transform the timeliness and efficiency of federal environmental review and authorizations for projects that apply for coverage. The end result is a well-coordinated team working in unison to ensure a collaborative, transparent and accountable permitting review process.

Benefits

Projects receiving FAST-41 permitting assistance from the Permitting Council receive the following benefits:

- ▶ **Coordination:** The Permitting Council is your project’s guide through the federal environmental review and authorization process, coordinating between agencies and convening decision makers to cut through the red tape and ensure progress.
- ▶ **Collaboration:** Covered projects receive focused attention from deputy secretary level senior leaders from all involved federal agencies, ensuring that projects receive the attention needed to avoid unnecessary delay.
- ▶ **Transparency:** One of the best benefits of FAST-41 is the Federal Permitting Dashboard, which allows each project to receive a comprehensive and integrated timetable. This publicly available tool gives all stakeholders a real-time accounting of the progress of each required review and authorization for the project.



ERIF Environmental Review Improvement Fund

One of the greatest tools in our FAST-41 toolbox is the ability to provide funds to federal agencies, Tribal nations and other governments to help fix the issues that may be causing inefficiencies in the permitting review process. We do that via our ERIF, which received an influx of \$350 million in the Inflation Reduction Act. Over \$200 million has already been allocated, including:

- ▶ **Federal Agencies:** Over \$165 million to help hire critically needed experts and purchase vital tools and resources.
- ▶ **Tribes:** An initial investment of at least \$5 million from the newly created ERIF Tribal Assistance Program to assist Tribal Nations in meeting increased permitting demand and meaningfully engage in the environmental review process.
- ▶ **Information Technology:** \$30 million in funding to support vital IT improvements at 11 federal agencies to speed federal permitting review, improve data quality, and foster public transparency.

Permitting Council Members

The Permitting Council is composed of 16 deputy-secretary level members representing the federal agencies involved in environmental review and authorization, in addition to the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The Permitting Council convenes these senior leaders through regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the progress of FAST-41 projects, share best practices and to work collaboratively to get projects to the finish line.

Agencies Represented on the Permitting Council:



What Types of Projects are Eligible for Assistance?

Projects in the following sectors are eligible to receive permitting assistance through the Permitting Council:

- Renewable Energy Production
- Conventional Energy Production
- Electricity Transmission
- Surface Transportation
- Aviation
- Ports & Waterways
- Water Resource Projects
- Broadband
- Pipelines
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Carbon Capture
- Semiconductors
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- High-Performance Computing & Advanced Computer Hardware & Software
- Quantum Information Science & Technology
- Data Storage & Data Management
- Cybersecurity
- Energy Storage

Is my Project Eligible for FAST-41 Permitting Assistance?

Most eligible projects fall under the Permitting Council's *objective criteria, which requires that the project is:



Subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);



Likely to require a total investment of more than \$200 million; and



Does not qualify for any abbreviated authorization and environmental review processes.

*The Permitting Council also has discretionary, Tribal and carbon capture criteria that allows for greater flexibility in determining FAST-41 coverage.

How to Get Started

Applying for permitting assistance is simple. Visit [Permitting.gov](https://www.permittings.gov) and click on the "Become a FAST-41 Project" button. The Permitting Council team of experts is always available for pre-application consultations—simply email FAST.FortyOne@Permitting.Gov