



Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request



Contents

- Overview..... 1**
- FY 2026 Budget Request Summary.....7**
 - Comparison of Appropriations..... 7
 - Program Description..... 8
- Annual Appropriations.....10**
 - Appropriations Language.....10
 - Analysis of Language Provisions.....10
 - FY 2024 Program Accomplishments..... 10
 - FY 2025 Program Highlights.....17
 - FY 2026 Request.....25
 - Explanation of FY 2026 Changes..... 28
 - Amounts Available for Obligation.....30
 - Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class.....31
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Appropriations Act.....32**
 - FY 2024 Program Accomplishments..... 32
 - FY 2025 Program Highlights.....33
 - FY 2026 Planned Program Highlights.....34
 - Amounts Available for Obligation.....35
 - Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class..... 36
- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022..... 37**
 - FY 2024 Program Accomplishments..... 37
 - FY 2025 Program Highlights.....41
 - FY 2026 Planned Program Highlights.....43
 - Amounts Available for Obligation..... 45
 - Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class..... 46

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Overview

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) requests \$10 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 to support the operations of the Permitting Council for effectively implementing and administering Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41),¹ 42 U.S.C. §§ 4370m *et seq.* The Permitting Council works closely with the permitting agencies and developers to deliver timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations by identifying emerging issues, facilitating solutions, and maintaining progress towards permitting deadlines.

The activities of the Permitting Council are funded by the Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF), which is administered by the Permitting Council Executive Director.² Congress has appropriated funds into the ERIF through three different sources: 1) annual appropriations; 2) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA);³ and 3) the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).⁴ In addition to funding the operations of the agency and staff dedicated to the implementation of FAST-41, appropriated funds support the activities of the Permitting Council, which brings transparency, predictability, and accountability to environmental reviews and permitting of infrastructure projects.

The Permitting Council uses its funding to implement its statutory mission to make more timely and efficient permitting decisions. Appropriations received in the IIJA and the IRA are primarily being used to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects and to provide for other improvements in the Federal infrastructure permitting process. Enactment of this budget request will allow the Executive Director to focus IIJA and IRA funds on holistic and targeted improvements to provide the

¹ Pub. L. No. 114-94 (Dec. 4, 2015).

² 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d).

³ Pub. L. No. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021).

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-169 (Aug. 16, 2022).



American public with timely and efficient Federal environmental reviews and authorizations. The Executive Director uses funding from the ERIF as described below.

Annual Appropriations: The Executive Director uses funding received through annual appropriations primarily to support the Permitting Council's operations, which include the expenses of the Permitting Council and the salaries and expenses of the staff and contractors who support the Executive Director.

IIJA Funding: The Executive Director uses appropriations from the IIJA to support ongoing operation of, maintenance of, and improvements to the Permitting Dashboard to support implementation of FAST-41 projects.

IRA Funding: The Executive Director uses the funding provided by the IRA to facilitate the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting

excellence and to make the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient. These activities include: (1) identifying and investing in solutions that improve the environmental review and permitting process across Federal agencies; and (2) developing and administering the ERIF Assistance Program to provide Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments funding to make review and authorization of FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient.

The Executive Director has been utilizing IRA funds to support activities by Federal agencies to facilitate more timely and efficient environmental reviews of projects in an array of infrastructure sectors including conventional energy and critical minerals; to invest in IT solutions that will modernize the Federal permitting process and enable greater process efficiencies; and to improve other aspects of the Federal infrastructure permitting process. In the absence of annual appropriations for FY 2026, the Executive Director will be forced to redirect a portion of the IRA funding for internal operations. As a result, less funding will be available to directly support timely and efficient environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects across the country, such as projects to facilitate critical minerals production that can create jobs, fuel prosperity, and significantly reduce our reliance on foreign nations.

About the Permitting Council

Established in 2015 by FAST-41, the Permitting Council is charged with improving the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain infrastructure projects. The Permitting Council is comprised of the Permitting Council Executive Director, who serves as the Council Chair and 15 other members, including the Deputy Secretary (or equivalent) from 13 Federal agencies, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).



Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council



Department of Agriculture



Department of the Army



Department of Commerce



Department of Energy



Department of Transportation



Department of Defense



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



Department of Homeland Security



Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Department of Housing and Urban Development



Advisory Council on Historic Preservation



Office of Management and Budget



Council on Environmental Quality



Environmental Protection Agency



Department of the Interior

The Permitting Council helps coordinate Federal agency environmental reviews and authorizations for projects that seek and qualify for FAST-41 “coverage.” Sponsors of FAST-41 covered projects are entitled to development of comprehensive project permitting timetables and transparent, collaborative management of those timetables on the

public-facing Permitting Dashboard.⁵ The lead Federal permitting agency also must consult the project sponsor when establishing and managing the covered project’s permitting timetable. Additionally, FAST-41 covered project sponsors have access to issue elevation and dispute resolution processes to help ensure that project permitting issues are expeditiously resolved by high-level Federal decision makers. The Executive Director may also direct agencies to post projects to the Permitting Dashboard that would benefit from transparency.⁶ Although not entitled to the full procedural benefits granted to “covered projects” by the statute, such “transparency projects” have permitting timetables that are publicly posted and transparently managed on the Permitting Dashboard. FAST-41 does not alter any applicable statutory or regulatory requirement, environmental law, regulation, or review process, or public involvement procedure. FAST-41 also does not predetermine the outcome of any Federal permitting decision-making process. FAST-41 projects may be in the following sectors:

- Conventional energy production
- Renewable energy production
- Electricity transmission
- Surface transportation*
- Aviation*
- Ports and waterways*
- Water resources*
- Broadband
- Pipelines
- Manufacturing
- Semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and machine learning
- High-performance computing and advanced computing hardware and software
- Quantum information science and technology
- Data storage and data management
- Cybersecurity
- Carbon capture
- Energy storage
- Any other sector determined by a majority vote of the Permitting Council, which currently includes mining⁷

* 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 the Department of Transportation 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).

The Permitting Council also establishes recommendations for best practices for agencies to implement when undertaking Federal environmental review

⁵ <https://www.permits.performance.gov/>.

⁶ 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-2(b)(2)(A)(iii).

⁷ 40 C.F.R. § part 1900.

and permitting of FAST-41 covered infrastructure projects and acts as a Federal center for permitting excellence to foster continual improvement in Federal environmental review and authorization processes. Additionally, the Executive Director creates recommended performance schedules for FAST-41 sectors for agencies to use as baselines for developing their FAST-41 covered project permitting timetables. Finally, the Permitting Council fosters intergovernmental cooperation as well as cooperation with industries and communities to develop more efficient, transparent and effective processes for reviewing and permitting infrastructure.



FY 2026 Budget Request Summary

Comparison of Appropriations

The Permitting Council requests \$10 million in FY 2026, to remain available until expended, to fund the operations of the Permitting Council, including salaries and expenses for 20 full-time equivalents (FTE) to administer and implement the provisions of FAST-41, and to oversee funding provided to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects.

Annual appropriations allow the Permitting Council to advance its mission to improve the transparency, predictability, and accountability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects. This work is part of the Administration's broader commitment to advance efficiencies to the Federal permitting process, unleash American energy , and spur economic growth.

FY 2024 - FY 2026 Comparison of Appropriations

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

Budget Account	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2025 to FY 2026 Change
Salaries & Expenses				
Appropriations, discretionary	\$ —	\$ —	\$10,000	+\$10,000
Appropriations, discretionary (IJA)	650	650	400	-250
Appropriations, mandatory (IRA)	—	—	—	—
Total	\$650	\$650	\$10,400	+\$9,750
Positions	21	22	20	-2
FTE	18	20	20	—

Program Description

In recognition of the permitting challenges faced by large-scale infrastructure projects in the U.S., Congress established the Permitting Council in 2015 to improve the transparency, predictability, and interagency coordination in the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 “covered” and transparency infrastructure projects.

Specifically, a project sponsor that seeks and obtains FAST-41 coverage for a qualified infrastructure project is entitled to participate in the creation and management of a single comprehensive permitting timetable, posted on the Permitting Dashboard, that contains intermediate and final completion dates for all Federal environmental reviews and authorizations needed to site, construct, and operate the project. The Executive Director manages each project’s permitting timetable on the Permitting Dashboard, assesses agencies’ compliance with FAST-41 requirements, mediates permitting timetable disputes; ensures quick elevation of issues to the appropriate Federal decision makers; establishes recommended performance schedules for covered sectors; and renders administrative decisions with respect to project coverage and certain extensions of project permitting timetables. The Executive Director is also authorized to add projects to the Permitting Dashboard in the interest of transparency.

FAST-41 covered projects complete federal permitting **25% quicker** with Permitting Council management.

The Permitting Council also serves as a Federal center for permitting excellence. In this role, the Permitting Council identifies and promotes the permitting best practices gleaned from FAST-41 covered projects to improve the Federal process for all projects, develops tools and templates, and seeks opportunities to provide cross-cutting training and improvements in the environmental permitting and authorization process. Additionally, the

Executive Director may use ERIF resources as needed to support interagency detailee and rotation opportunities, enhanced support for agency project managers, and fora for sharing information and lessons learned. Finally, the Permitting Council fosters intergovernmental cooperation as well as cooperation with industries to develop more transparent, predictable, and accountable processes for reviewing and permitting infrastructure.

Through FAST-41 project management and acting as a center for permitting excellence, the Permitting Council works across Federal permitting agencies to accelerate environmental reviews and permitting of infrastructure projects. The success of projects that have completed the permitting process using FAST-41 demonstrates a return on tax-payer dollars because projects achieve final permits faster, which helps accelerate economic growth and investments in America's infrastructure.





Annual Appropriations

Appropriations Language

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
Environmental Review Improvement Fund

For the Environmental Review Improvement Fund established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(d), \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, including for the payment of salaries, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

Analysis of Language Provisions

This appropriation provides no-year funding into the ERIF to be used for any purpose authorized in FAST-41, which includes supporting the operations of the Permitting Council, and salaries and operational expenses of the Executive Director and his/her staff. Appropriations also enable the administration and implementation of the provisions of FAST-41, support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence, and provide for the oversight of funding transfers from the ERIF to other Federal agencies and to state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects.

FY 2024 Program Accomplishments

Permitting large, complex infrastructure projects requires smart and timely coordination among many Federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholders to deliver the necessary permits and authorizations under numerous statutes and regulations. Thus, it is imperative that the timeline for Federal environmental review and authorization processes be managed in a

collaborative, transparent, and accountable way, underscoring the value of the Permitting Dashboard as a transparency and accountability tool. The FAST-41 process drives robust engagement between Federal permitting agencies, the project sponsor, and the public. Frequent and proactive communication ensures that issues are identified and elevated for resolution before they become roadblocks that slow down or stop the permitting process. This proactive collaboration is key to overcoming complex public and environmental concerns and interagency coordination challenges, so that we can actually get to building the infrastructure we need. Project sponsors benefit from effective FAST-41's issue elevation procedures by having a statutory framework to keep the permitting process moving. FAST-41 establishes dispute resolution procedures for the Executive Director, in consultation with appropriate agency chief environmental review and permitting officers (CERPOs) and the project sponsor, to, as necessary, mediate any disputes regarding the permitting timetable.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

In FY 2024, the Executive Director and their staff continued to engage directly with project sponsors, permitting agencies, and relevant stakeholders to navigate many permitting challenges and foster consistent, streamlined, and transparent permitting processes, which will help improve the Federal process for other existing and future projects.

The public and Congress continued to benefit from the increased coordination, transparency, and accountability provided through FAST-41 implementation. FY 2024 saw significant changes in the FAST-41 portfolio, including the addition of five new covered projects and seven projects that completed the environmental review and authorization process.



Project sponsors initiated FAST-41 for five new projects from across the country in FY 2024. The newly added projects, in the order the Permitting Council received a FAST-41 Initiation Notice (FIN) from the project sponsor, are as follows:

- Vineyard Northeast (Massachusetts);
- Grain Belt Express Transmission – Phase 1 (Kansas and Missouri);
- Silver Star Solar (Nevada);
- Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project (Nebraska); and
- Perkins Renewable Energy Project (California).

The addition of these new projects signals an increasing awareness of the value of participating in the FAST-41 program and the benefits of coordination in the Federal process that come from collaboratively developing and actively managing public-facing project permitting timetables. The projects represent three different sectors across six states, demonstrating the value of the benefits of the FAST-41 process, regardless of project type or geographic location.

In FY 2024, the following seven FAST-41 covered projects completed the environmental review and authorization process:

- The **Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV Transmission Line Project** runs 102 miles between Iowa and Wisconsin. The project provides economic savings and improves electric system reliability for affected communities.

- The 2.6-gigawatt **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project**, located 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach, is anticipated to power up to 660,000 homes,
- The 2.1-gigawatt, 138 turbine **Empire Wind Energy Project**, located approximately 14 miles offshore of New York and 19.5 miles offshore of New Jersey, will potentially power over 700,000 homes.
- The 2.6-gigawatt **New England Wind** project comprises 129 turbines and will produce energy to power 900,000 homes in the northeast.
- The **Port of Corpus Christi Authority Channel Deepening Project** will expand one of the largest ports in the Nation, a major gateway to international and domestic maritime commerce, by deepening and extending the channel with the capacity to accommodate transit of very large crude carriers into Corpus Christi, Texas.
- The 704-megawatt **Revolution Wind Farm Project**, located 15 miles south of Rhode Island and 32 miles southeast of Connecticut, will generate enough energy to power 250,000 homes.
- The 924-megawatt **Sunrise Wind Farm**, which comprises 84 turbines and located 16 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and 26 miles east of Montauk, New York, will power 320,000 homes.

Not all FAST-41 covered projects result in project approval. A significant aspect of the utility and value of FAST-41 is to provide project sponsors and the public with a modicum of predictability in the Federal environmental review and authorization process by driving Federal decision making toward a timely resolution – whether in favor of or against approval of a proposed FAST-41 covered infrastructure project. A cancellation may occur for a variety of reasons, such as a project sponsor could withdraw its application from Federal review or the lead agency could make a determination that the Federal environmental review and authorization for the covered project will not move forward. Accordingly, in addition to the projects approved in FY 2024, two FAST-41 covered project reviews were concluded with a decision not to move the project forward:

- The permitting timetable for the **Plains Pipeline, L.P.'s Lines 901 and 903 Replacement Project** was paused starting in FY 2022. The pause was due to outstanding information and reports needed for the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and other environmental reports. On October 1, 2022, Plains Pipeline L.P. sold Lines 901/903 to Pacific Pipeline Company. On October 24, 2023, Pacific Pipeline Company notified the Permitting Council of their decision to not proceed with the Project. This project is now canceled on the Permitting Dashboard.
- FAST-41 coverage for the **Central Louisiana Regional Carbon Storage Hub – Vernon Parish One CCS Site** project was canceled during FY 2024 when EPA granted the State of Louisiana primary enforcement responsibility or “primacy” for administering the Safe Drinking Water Act Underground Injection Control (UIC) program for Class VI injection wells on February 5, 2024. Accordingly, the project moves forward with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources now as the UIC permitting authority, and there is no longer an EPA Federal environmental review or authorization required.

Similarly, a lead or facilitating agency may request that the Executive Director “pause” the FAST-41 process for a covered project. The permitting timetable for the **Liberty Development and Production Plan Project** was paused prior to FY 2024 and remained paused for the duration of FY 2024. **Beacon Wind** and **Ocean Wind 1** were also paused in FY 2024.

Enabling Continual Improvement of the FAST-41 Program

As the Permitting Council matures and more FAST-41 covered projects complete the environmental review and authorization process, the Permitting Council is working to document and enhance the benefits of FAST-41 coverage. Specifically, in FY 2024 the Permitting Council started conducting after-action analysis on covered projects that have completed the environmental review and authorization process to capture feedback of their experience with the FAST-41 program. This effort leverages neutral partners through the Department of Transportation Volpe Center to facilitate discussions with project sponsors, lead Federal agencies, and cooperating agencies to gather a qualitative analysis of the environmental review and authorization process under the FAST-41 project management and transparency requirements to highlight successes and themes that can inform improved FAST-41 implementation, future best practice development, the Annual Report to Congress,⁸ and initiatives that support Federal permitting excellence.

FAST-41 Completed Project After-Action Results

The Permitting Council provides active involvement in project management ensuring all project stakeholders were aware of their responsibilities and driving progress against the schedule. For a project completed in FY 2024 one stakeholder noted “we would not have gotten to a Record of Decision without FAST-41.”

Bolstering Communications and Outreach Efforts

In FY 2024 the Permitting Council increased communications and outreach activities to meaningfully engage with the permitting community in order to raise awareness of and increase participation in FAST-41. Since the FAST-41 process is a voluntary one for which project sponsors opt-in, communicating the value of FAST-41 coverage to potential project sponsors is essential to growing the covered project portfolio and increasing adoption of permitting best practices.

⁸ See 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-7(a)(1).

Notably, the Permitting Council launched an agency brand in FY 2024 to aid in increased outreach and allow for clear, streamlined communication with those within the permitting community. This investment led to 26 new FINs received since the agency brand was launched in March 2024.

Outreach efforts in FY 2024 focused on fostering relationships across Federal agencies, private industry, and state, local, and Tribal governments by participating in industry-related conferences, summits, and working groups to raise awareness of and increase participation in FAST-41. To bolster its own accountability, in FY 2024, the Permitting Council increased responsiveness and technical assistance to Congressional Members and staff. The agency provided briefings to Congressional members representing states where current FAST-41 projects are located, organized site visits to covered projects, and extended education and communication efforts broadly. Highlights from FY 2024 outreach activities included:

- **Connecting with New Audiences:** New audiences that the Permitting Council engaged with in FY 2024 included mining, broadband, energy transmission, and energy storage as well as state, local, and Tribal governments.
- **Building Relationships with Industry:** The Permitting Council attended key events across the country, including conferences, meetings, and webinars, to discuss how FAST-41 can support project sponsors during the permitting process.
- **Site Visits:** The Permitting Council's leadership made a concerted effort to visit current FAST-41 projects in FY 2024. These visits helped foster relationships with current project sponsors and provided leadership with a better understanding of the projects and the unique circumstances informing the environmental review and permitting of the projects.
- **Environmental Permitting Technology and Data Summit:** The Permitting Council co-hosted a summit with OMB and CEQ to bring together Federal partners to highlight the opportunities that information technology offers to advance Federal permitting. During the Summit,

the Permitting Council announced targeted investments towards IT solutions that will enable permitting process efficiencies, greater interconnection across permitting processes, and ultimately make more timely Federal permitting decisions.

- **Performance Measurement for Permitting Agencies Workshop:** The Permitting Council also helped lead a workshop focusing on performance management in permitting processes which facilitated coordinated discussions across all Federal permitting agencies to understand challenges, develop solutions, and identify foundational approaches to assessing permitting performance and timelines.

FY 2025 Program Highlights

The Permitting Council is managing a shift in its portfolio for FY 2025. With the President's executive actions facilitating and encouraging more affordable and domestically-sourced energy, the Permitting Council is experiencing a shift in its FAST-41 portfolio towards different infrastructure sectors, such as pipelines, water resources, and critical minerals mining. As a result, the Permitting Council's activities in FY 2025 will promote additional portfolio growth in sectors championed by the President and a continued focus on permitting improvement to reduce unnecessary delays hampering the economic development and job prosperity achieved through infrastructure projects.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

The Permitting Council has seen significant FAST-41 portfolio growth so far in FY 2025. Most notably, the first-ever transparency projects were added to the Permitting Dashboard. FAST-41 allows the Executive Director to direct infrastructure projects to be placed on the Permitting Dashboard in the interest of transparency. Per the direction outlined in the Executive Order *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*, the Executive Director has placed the following 25 critical mineral production projects on the Permitting Dashboard, providing project schedules and greater transparency to these critical projects:



Critical Mineral Production (Transparency Projects)

3PL Railroad Valley Exploration (NV)

Amelia A&B (GA)

Antler Copper Project (AZ)

Aqqaluk Pit Exploration and Expansion Project (AK)

Becky's Mine Modification (MT)

Caldwell Canyon Mine Project (ID)

Grassy Mountain Mine (OR)

Greens Creek Surface Exploration (AK)

King's Mountain Project (NC)

La Jara Mesa (NM)

Libby Exploration Project (MT)

Liberty Owl Project (AR and TX)

Lisbon Valley Copper Project (UT)

McDermitt Exploration Project (OR)

Michigan Potash (MI)

NorthMet (MN)

Polaris Exploration Project (NV)

Resolution Copper Project (AZ)

Roca Honda (NM)

Silver Peak Lithium Mine (NV)

South Railroad Project (NV)

South West Arkansas Project (AR)

Stibnite Gold Project (ID)

Stillwater Mine (MT)

Warrior Met Coal Mines (AL)

With the increased accountability provided by the Permitting Dashboard, the Permitting Council is helping drive the Administration's priorities to leverage our Nation's mineral resources to drive prosperity and lessen reliance on foreign sources for minerals. The Executive Director continues to evaluate mineral projects that could benefit from designation as a transparency project.

In further support of the President's priorities on critical minerals, the Permitting Council is developing a FAST-41 Recommended Performance Schedule (RPS) for the mining sector. FAST-41 directs the Executive Director, in consultation with the Permitting Council member agencies, to develop RPSs for each category of covered projects. These RPSs include completion dates for the environmental reviews and authorizations most commonly required for a given category of projects. They also reflect the most sound and efficient applicable processes, including alignment of Federal reviews, reduction of permitting and project delivery time, and consideration of the best practices for public participation. The mining RPS will serve as a starting

point from which lead agencies, cooperating and participating agencies, and project sponsors can identify and consider project-specific factors that will ultimately determine the project timetable for each project.

The Permitting Council also continues to see significant growth in the number of projects seeking FAST-41 coverage, across several key economic sectors. Within the first seven months of FY 2025, 13 projects have already been added to the FAST-41 portfolio, which is more than double the number of covered projects added throughout all of FY 2024. With the addition of these projects, the FAST-41 covered project portfolio stands at 34 projects spanning nine sectors. On top of this, the environmental reviews and authorizations for four FAST-41 covered projects have been successfully completed so far in FY 2025. A summary of the FAST-41 covered project portfolio, and a list of projects by sector, follows.



The Permitting Council has conducted after-action analysis of some of the completed projects in FY 2025 and identified aspects of FAST-41 that brought value to the permitting process. Specifically, the after-action analysis for the

AlaskaFiberOptic project identified that Federal stakeholders and the project sponsor valued the project schedule to ensure awareness of milestones and encouraged continual movement of activities to meet deadlines.

Additionally, the coordination driven by the Permitting Council kept the project sponsor informed and effectively conveyed complex information.

Such coordination enables more predictability and planning needed for such large, complex infrastructure projects.



FAST-41 Project Portfolio



Pipelines (1)

Alaska LNG Project



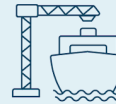
Mining (1)

South32 Hermosa Critical Minerals Project



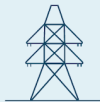
Carbon Capture (1)

Pelican Carbon Sequestration Hub*



Ports and Waterways (1)

Sparrows Point Container Terminal



Electricity Transmission (1)

Grain Belt Express Transmission - Phase 1



Energy Production (20)

Atlantic Shores North

Attentive Energy 2*

Bay State Wind Project

Beacon Wind

Bluepoint Wind 1*

Bonanza Solar Project

Desert Charger Energy Project*

Kitty Hawk South Offshore Wind Project

Mosey Solar*

Ocean Wind 1 Project

Pantheon Solar*

Perkins Renewable Energy

Samantha Solar*

Silver Star Solar

Skipjack Wind Farm

South Bennett Solar*

SouthCoast Wind Energy

Stagecoach Wind

Vineyard Mid-Atlantic*

Vineyard Northeast



Water Resources (2)

Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Facility*

Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion



Energy Storage (2)

Seminole Pumped Storage Project

White Pine Pumped Storage



Broadband (5)

NANA Regional Broadband Network*

Navajo Nation DOE E-Rate Funded Broadband*

Navajo Nation Gallup McKinley County Schools E-Rate Funded Broadband*

Santa Fe Indian School Broadband

Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project

* Denotes new projects added in FY 2025.

The Permitting Council will also continue to develop improved data analytics tools to demonstrate the value of the FAST-41 process and drive towards a more predictable permitting process. Through our analysis, projects supported through FAST-41 **achieved Record of Decision nearly 18 months faster than those that did not leverage FAST-41**. These analytical efforts continue to demonstrate how the FAST-41 process accelerates permitting timelines, enabling the Nation to drive economic growth faster. As the FAST-41 portfolio continues to grow, analyzing and discussing project timetables will help to expand the understanding of best practices, causes of delay, and solutions to further drive accuracy and timeliness of the permitting process.

Advancing Permitting Excellence

The Executive Director continues to champion best practices and efficiencies across the permitting community through FAST-41 project support and by providing expert guidance and analysis to Federal agencies to drive Federal permitting process improvements. Efforts in FY 2025 include:

- **Permitting Performance:** Historically, the Federal permitting process has had limited measurement of its processes making it challenging to assess timeliness, effectiveness, and bottlenecks. Building on the performance management forum in FY 2024, the Permitting Council is working with OMB and permitting agencies to improve accountability by developing holistic and tailored metrics of permitting processes. Efforts include measuring cost or time savings through implementation of best practices, technology, or other solutions.
- **Leveraging Technology:** Federal permitting practices are historically rudimentary, such as paper applications or siloed spreadsheet tracking, which hamper the timeliness of reviews. To address this, the Permitting Council is collaborating with agencies to adopt and/or modernize permitting technology with ERIF Assistance Program investments in solutions that advance cohesion of processes across permitting agencies, drive efficiency, and thoughtfully leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI). Additionally, the Permitting Council is coordinating with CEQ to implement the Presidential Memorandum *Updating*

Permitting Technology for the 21st Century. Our efforts are fundamental to developing “whole of government” technology-based solutions to permitting and identifying best practices, addressing common challenges, and exploring ways to scale and share innovations.

- **Results-driven Infrastructure Project Management:** The FAST-41 process, and associated best practices, provide the effective management that is essential to drive timely and efficient reviews. For FY 2025, to accelerate delivery of the investments in building our Nation’s infrastructure, the Permitting Council is setting the bar for the Federal permitting community by enabling enhanced project management skills, effective coordination, time-saving tools and templates, sector-specific resources, and efficient resource management.
- **Improved Permitting Data:** To make meaningful improvements to the permitting process, it is essential to understand the causes of permitting problems. To that end, the Permitting Council is assessing Permitting Dashboard data to better explain and understand the Federal permitting process, roles of various agencies throughout the process, challenges facing agencies during the environmental review and authorization process, and reasons for project delays. The new data will be incorporated into the Agency Performance Reports that the Executive Director is required to provide to Congress on a quarterly basis.⁹ Beyond reports, this data will also inform the Permitting Council’s ability to advance its mission and exercise sound fiscal management through coordinating activities, services, and engagements.

Cultivating Permitting Council and CERPO Coordination

As Chair of the Permitting Council, the Executive Director plays a vital role in shaping the work and efforts of the Permitting Council. At the start of a new Administration, the Executive Director will be focused on orienting new Permitting Council members and will swiftly begin coordinating efforts to leverage the Council and the FAST-41 process to advance the President’s

⁹ See 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-7(a)(2).

priorities. Efforts will include coordination with the National Energy Dominance Council, exploring more transparency projects that would help unleash American energy, partnering with the newly created United States Investment Accelerator to increase access to and use of our national resources, and holistic improvements that would accelerate permitting decisions and spur economic growth.

The Permitting Council will also continue coordination with the CERPOs within each Federal permitting agency who play a critical role in ensuring accountability in the FAST-41 process and are integral to effective coordination throughout the permitting process.

Amplifying Awareness of FAST-41 and Permitting Excellence

In FY 2025, the Executive Director will use strategic communication and outreach activities to reinforce the Permitting Council's role as a convenor to bring various perspectives together, educate the public on FAST-41 and effective infrastructure permitting practices, and drive new potential project sponsors to seek the benefits of FAST-41. These efforts already include a first-of-its-kind convening of project sponsors at an in-person Infrastructure Development Summit hosted by the Permitting Council in October 2024. The Summit brought together potential and current project sponsors among private industry, state, and Tribal governments with the relevant Federal permitting community to increase awareness of FAST-41, share tools and resources among attendees, and foster relationships to improve coordination. To build on these efforts, the Permitting Council will host four virtual convenings focused on specific priority sectors—Mining; Transmission and Pipelines; Data Storage and Manufacturing; and Ports and Water Resources.

In continued efforts to bring greater awareness of FAST-41, the Permitting Council launched an official agency website in November 2024. The Permitting Council historically provides information on FAST-41 through a website hosted by the Department of Transportation. By establishing a dedicated Permitting Council website, navigation and access to FAST-41

related information better services the public making it more clear and accessible.

FY 2026 Request

The Permitting Council will use FY 2026 annual appropriations to accelerate FAST-41 projects towards their economic benefit to our Nation, with a project portfolio that currently represents more than \$115 billion of infrastructure investments. FAST-41 uniquely provides Congress and the public with a timeline of permitting activities for each project, bringing transparency and accountability to the process. This accountability is underscored through our quarterly reporting to Congress on permitting agencies' adherence to the FAST-41 process and ability to meet their permitting milestones. Finally, our holistic view of the full ambit of the Federal permitting process allows our agency to identify and target resources and efforts to implement effective best practices. These efforts will be advanced in FY 2026 with a growing portfolio poised to meet our Nation's infrastructure and economic needs.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

The Permitting Council efforts in FY 2026 will heavily focus on advancing new projects in support of the President's priorities, especially data centers and critical mineral production projects. FAST-41 project staff work directly with project sponsors and permitting agencies, providing targeted technical permitting proficiencies to support and promote transparent and accurate permitting timetables and timely permitting decisions. The Permitting Council anticipates a growing FAST-41 project portfolio with greater representation from new infrastructure sectors and targeted growth in sectors critical to the President's priorities, namely pipelines, conventional energy production, and mining. The Permitting Council is uniquely positioned to understand infrastructure projects across the Federal landscape and provide direct project support to help overcome obstacles and identify critical paths to improve the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for all FAST-41 projects.



Drive Permitting Improvement and Innovation

The Permitting Council will build on FY 2025 efforts to prioritize solutions that enable permitting improvement towards the development of additional tools that will drive efficiencies in the permitting process with a goal to more timely permitting decisions. The agency will focus on furthering best practice adoption, advancing tools that promote more effective project management, developing and leveraging performance data to improve permitting timelines, and advancing coordination on technology solutions for permitting efficiencies. More specifically, the Permitting Council will work with agencies to identify more detailed causes for delays and missed project milestones, and then will work with the Dashboard team to make the necessary technical changes to begin tracking this new data. This new data will be used in FY 2026 to identify trends in causes of delays, thus better informing the Permitting Council's recommendations for best practices for further process improvements. The Permitting Council will continue to coordinate across the permitting community to ensure solutions are meaningful and impactful to permitting timelines.

More Effective Permitting Dashboard

Through the work in FY 2025 with IIJA funds, the Permitting Council identified a clear need for a more dynamic, cost-effective Permitting Dashboard. The Permitting Council will seek to develop an agile, cost-effective solution to update the Permitting Dashboard and optimize the transparency, predictability, and accountability of the Dashboard. This effort is in support of the President's efforts to modernize and leverage technology to drive greater efficiency and transparency to the permitting process. The Permitting Council will seek a user-centric, sustainable solution that

more effectively meets the requirements and needs of the Permitting Dashboard. Desired outcomes include:

- More accessible project information, timelines, and milestones for transparency and accuracy in accordance with FAST-41 requirements.
- Greater visibility to project statuses to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations.
- Improved communication platform for stakeholders to access real-time information.
- Dynamic, on-demand information custom to user needs.
- Enhanced tracking and analysis of projects including performance metrics and goals to evaluate the efficiency of the permitting process.

Targeted Sector Outreach to Advance FAST-41

In FY 2026, the Permitting Council will target outreach to increase FAST-41 participation and adoption of permitting best practices. Outreach activities will be focused on sectors that most meaningfully impact the President's goal towards energy dominance. As such, the Permitting Council will engage industry and potential project sponsors in conventional energy sectors to demonstrate how the FAST-41 process can alleviate permitting bottlenecks and accelerate infrastructure development. As the Permitting Council engages these priority sectors to bring greater awareness of the value of FAST-41, we plan to grow the FAST-41 portfolio and help more projects.

Engagement with industry and the permitting community will also enable a better understanding of policy and practitioner pain points to help shape Permitting Council services and solutions. The Permitting Council is committed to continual, proactive engagement within the permitting community to ensure a holistic view that can best inform how the resources of the agency can advance timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations while advancing economic development for the country.

Explanation of FY 2026 Changes

FY 2025 to FY 2026 Budget Changes

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	Amount	Positions	FTE
FY 2025 Enacted	\$ –		
Operational Expenses:			
Discretionary appropriations, no-year, carryover	\$386		
IIJA funding	280		
IRA funding	6,939	22	20.27
FY 2025 Operational Expenses	\$7,605	22	20.27
Adjustments to Base:			
Annualization of 2025 pay raise and positions and other personnel costs	374	–	1.73
Inflation and other mandatory adjustments	22		
Total, Adjustments to Base	396	–	1.73
FY 2025 Current Services	\$8,001	22	22.00
Program Changes:			
Reduction in staff	-308	-2	-2.00
Other program changes	2,307		
Total, Program Changes	1,999	-2	-2.00
Total, FY 2026 Appropriations Request	\$10,000	20	20.00

Adjustments to Base

- Annualization of 2025 Pay Raise and Positions and Other Personnel Costs (+\$374,000)** – The budget request reflects the annualization of the new positions planned to be filled in FY 2025 and the impacts of the Federal civilian pay raise of 2.0 percent beginning in January 2025 for the three months falling in FY 2026, plus anticipated staffing within-grade increases.

- **Inflation and Other Mandatory Adjustments (+\$22,000)** — The budget request reflects the impact of inflation and standard increases in service fees for financial management, human resources, information technology, and contract support.

Program Changes

- **Reduction in Staff (-\$308,000)** — The budget request reflects staffing changes as a result of the Administration's initiatives to reduce the size of the Federal workforce. These changes reflect staffing impacts as a result of the Deferred Resignation Program.
- **Other Program Changes (+\$2,307,000)** — As the FAST-41 project portfolio grows and the use of transparency projects beginning in FY 2025, the Permitting Council requires a more user-friendly, dynamic Permitting Dashboard that maximizes its mission for transparency, predictability, and accountability. These increased program expenses allow for the development of an improved solution.

Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2024 – FY 2026 Amounts Available for Obligation (Annual Appropriations)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$3,417	\$359	\$ —
Recovery of prior year obligations	666	27	—
Appropriations	—	—	10,000
Total resources available	\$4,083	\$386	\$10,000
Obligations			
Labor	\$2,629	\$ —	\$4,546
Non-labor	1,095	386	5,454
Total obligations	\$3,724	\$386	\$10,000
Resources less obligations	\$359	\$ —	\$ —

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2024 – FY 2026 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (Annual Appropriations)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Personnel Compensation and Benefits			
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$1,969	\$ —	\$3,324
12.0 Personnel benefits	660	—	1,222
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$2,629	\$ —	\$4,546
Non-Labor			
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	\$188	\$108	\$200
22.0 Transportation of things	—	—	—
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	—	—	1
24.0 Printing and reproduction	2	5	5
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	778	192	5,051*
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	27	13	123
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	34	10	11
25.7 Other contractual services – operation and maintenance of equipment	—	2	—
26.0 Supplies and materials	61	54	58
31.0 Equipment	—	1	5
Total, Non-Labor	\$1,095	\$386	\$5,454
Total Obligations	\$3,724	\$386	\$10,000

* A significant portion of the increase over the prior year is because IRA funding is being used for operational expenses in FY 2025 due to a lack of an annual appropriation. This table reflects shifting these expenses to being more appropriately paid from the annual appropriations request.



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Appropriations Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Appropriations Act (Division J of the IIJA) appropriates \$650,000 per year for each of FYs 2022 through 2025, and \$400,000 for FY 2026, into the ERIF for the purposes of administering and implementing FAST-41, which includes the operations of the Permitting Council, staffing, and to support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. The Executive Director is also authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d)(3) to transfer amounts from the ERIF, with the approval of the Director of the OMB, to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. The funding provided each year is available for only that fiscal year. Since 2022, the Permitting Council has prioritized IIJA funds to maintain the Permitting Dashboard.

FY 2024 Program Accomplishments

The Permitting Council continues to leverage IIJA funds to focus on management and improvement of the Permitting Dashboard. Currently, the Permitting Dashboard is maintained by the Department of Transportation (DOT). In FY 2024, Permitting Council staff worked closely with DOT to maintain FAST-41 functionality and develop and implement FAST-41 enhancements that increase transparency to the public for FAST-41 covered projects. Through regular coordination meetings, including engagement with Dashboard administrators at each permitting agency, Permitting Council staff and DOT identified priorities and planned development work for improving Dashboard management for FAST-41 covered projects. Throughout FY 2024, the Permitting Council staff made a number of enhancements to Permitting Dashboard functionality for covered projects that improved useability for Federal agency staff. For example, Permitting

Council staff fully implemented improvements that provide clearer information to agencies on upcoming deadlines for FAST-41 reporting requirements.



FY 2025 Program Highlights

In FY 2025, the Permitting Council will continue to make enhancements to the Permitting Dashboard that enable a more user-friendly interface for FAST-41 covered projects for both Federal users, project sponsors, and the public. Most notably in FY 2025, the Permitting Council will identify opportunities to address critical functionality and use of the Permitting Dashboard as a tool for transparency and predictability for timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations. As a new addition to the Permitting Dashboard, transparency projects will require additional programming and management by the Permitting Council to ensure the Permitting Dashboard is effective because the technical requirements for transparency projects have varying functions from covered FAST-41 projects. Specifically, the Permitting Council will engage in interviews, data analysis, and research to determine a future

state of the Permitting Dashboard that maximizes implementation of FAST-41, leverages a user-centric design for real-time access to information, and enables more robust permitting timetables and analysis.

FY 2026 Planned Program Highlights

With the Permitting Council's intent to leverage annual appropriations to drive towards a more sustainable Permitting Dashboard solution, the Permitting Council will leverage IJJA FY 2026 funds to maintain the existing Permitting Dashboard. The Permitting Council will ensure to fulfill its statutory responsibility of a publicly-available Permitting Dashboard as any new solution is developed and managed. Funding will be targeted towards maintaining and ensuring functionality of essential functions.

Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2024 - FY 2026 Amounts Available for Obligation (IIJA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Appropriations	650	650	400
Total resources available	\$650	\$650	\$400
Obligations			
Labor	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Non-labor	650	650	400
Total obligations	\$650	\$650	\$400
Resources less obligations	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2024 - FY 2026 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (IIJA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Personnel Compensation and Benefits			
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
12.0 Personnel benefits	—	—	—
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Non-Labor			
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
22.0 Transportation of things	—	—	—
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	—	—	—
24.0 Printing and reproduction	—	—	—
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	650	650	400
26.0 Supplies and materials	—	—	—
31.0 Equipment	—	—	—
Total, Non-Labor	\$650	\$650	\$400
Total Obligations	\$650	\$650	\$400



Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

Section 70007 of the IRA appropriated \$350 million in FY 2023 into the ERIF for the purposes of administering and implementing FAST-41, which includes the operations of the Permitting Council, staffing, and to support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. Additionally, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d)(3), the Executive Director may, with the approval of the Director of the OMB, transfer amounts in the ERIF to other Federal agencies and to state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. The funding provided by the IRA is available until September 30, 2031.



FY 2024 Program Accomplishments

To accelerate our Nation's investment in building infrastructure for the 21st Century, the Permitting Council continues to prioritize use of these funds to advance FAST-41 projects and to serve as a Federal center for permitting excellence within the Federal permitting community. However, without annual appropriations in FY 2024, the Permitting Council has had to leverage IRA funds to support its staff and related operations.

Investing in Environmental Review Improvements

In FY 2024, the Permitting Council advanced implementation of its ERIF Assistance Program to support permitting agencies on a more meaningful scale. ERIF Assistance funding was provided to address infrastructure permitting needs, including IT investments to leverage technology that enhances and improves permitting processes.

The Permitting Council continued to execute against funding first announced in October 2023 to target bottlenecks in the Federal permitting processes. This work included finalizing agreements for the funding and ensuring the regular, on-time reporting of progress and impact of funds to improved permitting timelines. This funding is already being used to make significant improvements in the Federal permitting process. Notable results of ERIF Assistance Program funding during FY 2024 include:

- **Creating Permitting Process Efficiencies:** Many agencies are leveraging ERIF Assistance Program funds to improve their processes to gain efficiencies in the timeliness of environmental review and authorizations. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed and launched the [Broadband Communications Uses e-application system](#), which more effectively tracks and accelerates the intake process for permit applications and integrates other Federal equities related to broadband. Similarly, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has formed a dedicated team to develop programmatic ESA Section 7 consultations and is using tools to quickly determine the necessary level of consultation for a project. In conjunction with its Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) web application, FWS has developed “determination keys” that are logically structured sets of questions to assist in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for an existing ESA section 7 consultation. This tool allows FWS to more quickly and efficiently provide automated concurrence letters.
- **Integrating FAST-41 into Processes:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) used ERIF Assistance Program resources to assess

internal permitting processes and identify areas to integrate FAST-41 best practices and processes into their internal procedures.

- **Creating Permitting Transparency:** As a key tenet of FAST-41, transparency is integral to timely and efficient permitting. Using ERIF Assistance Program funds, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) launched the [Permitting and Environmental Information Application](#) and training video, a publicly available tool that enables the user to identify Federal and state permit requirements, identify rights of ways and Tribal lands, and screen for environmentally sensitive resources. The Application was accessed by 2,587 users in the first 10 days of launch.

Also in FY 2024, during the Environmental Permitting Technology and Data Summit, the Executive Director announced the Permitting Council's intent to fund work aimed at leveraging technology and IT tools to bring innovation and efficiencies into the Federal permitting process. These investments accelerate the adoption of technology to further modernize permitting processes and advance transparency and accountability, interoperability, efficiencies, and more timely permitting decisions. Investments include:

- **Department of Interior (DOI) Public Comment Analysis Tool:** Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the solicitation of and response to public comments on all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews at DOI bureaus and potentially other Federal agencies. This solution will save time and labor on one of the most intensive portions of the NEPA review process.
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** Leverages an open source and customizable technology to deliver a unified environmental review data system consisting of interconnected agency systems and shared services. The solution reduces time, labor, hosting and computing costs by implementing technology and data standards that address the greatest process improvement need of rapid discovery and access to relevant data and information. Initial deployment is focused on a

narrow set of permitted actions and species related to energy development and mineral extraction.

- **NTIA Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) Tracking:** Integrates environmental screening and permitting tracking into their application process for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) grants and by guiding applicants through initial questions, will determine if they qualify for categorical exclusions. Integrating environmental screening earlier in the application process will improve applicant understanding of environmental review and will speed processing of categorical exclusions. Implementation of this technology will save NTIA significant time by replacing manual processing and tracking.
- **Department of Energy PermitAI:** Pilot the use of AI to augment the abilities of staff in preparing environmental documents and conducting permitting reviews across five other Federal agencies. This has the potential to provide significant benefits to permitting reviews across the Federal permitting community, including providing better information faster for improved decision making. For example, PermitAI could assess past analyses for critical mineral projects to expedite future permitting decisions.

Focusing on sound fiscal stewardship and government-wide solutions, the Permitting Council continues to promote IT best practices and shared solutions and execute against the internal controls to properly manage these resources.

ERIF Tribal Assistance Program (TAP)

In FY 2024, the Executive Director launched the ERIF TAP, which provides funds directly to Tribal governments that are engaged in the environmental review and authorization of FAST-41 projects. The ERIF TAP supports engagement by Tribes in a timely and productive way to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations of FAST-41 projects. Assistance is provided only for direct engagement in the permitting process for covered projects to accelerate permitting timelines.

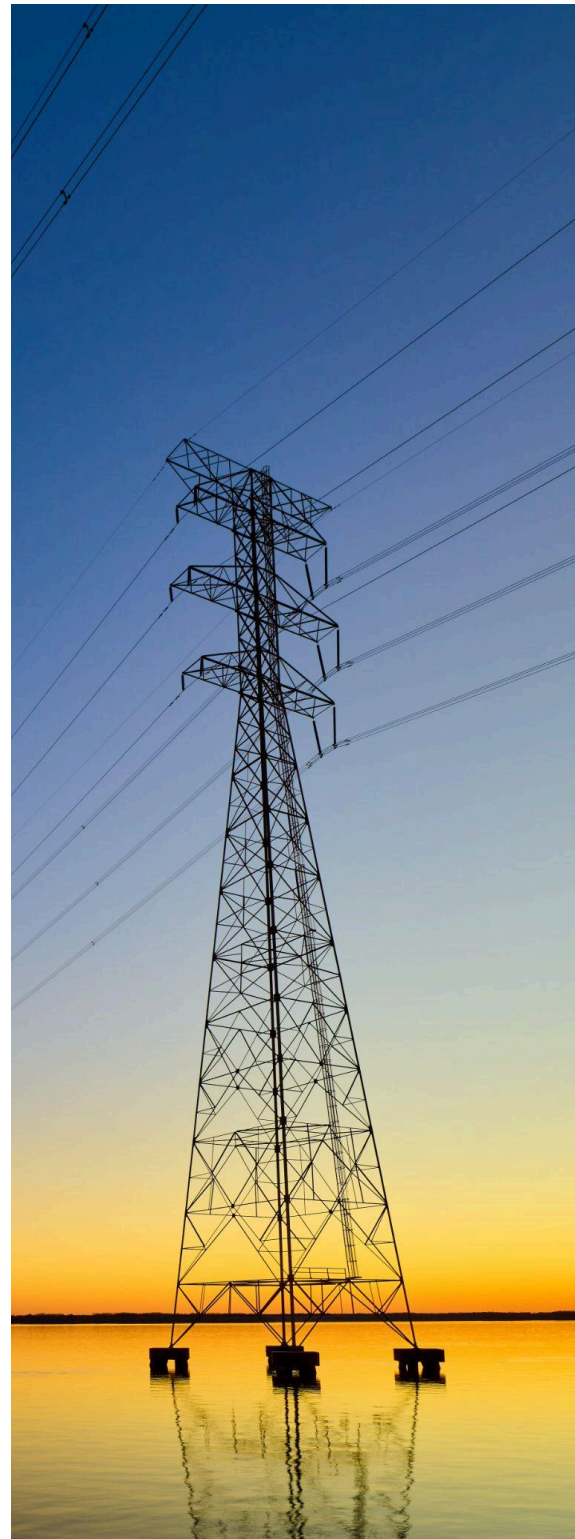
FY 2025 Program Highlights

Advance Permitting Improvement Solutions

The Permitting Council will invest in developing solutions that optimize the permitting process and maximize permitting timelines. To achieve this work, the Executive Director will coordinate with Permitting Council members, CERPOs, and project sponsors and will explore partnerships to develop tools, templates, and other impactful solutions. Examples of the fruits of these investments include the development of resources, templates, and tools in priority sectors such as mining and energy.

Target Funding to Priority Infrastructure Projects

Continuing to advance the benefits of the ERIF Assistance Program, the Executive Director will explore additional funding opportunities to advance the Administration's priorities, such as critical minerals, conventional energy, and permitting technology improvements. The President has clearly stated the need to unleash American energy towards energy independence while reducing the burden of permitting processes. The Permitting Council plays a critical role in bringing transparency, accountability, and predictability to infrastructure permitting and understands where to target funding to overcome bottlenecks and assist priority projects that support the President's goals. The Executive Director will use IRA funding to support FAST-41 projects that align to the President's priorities such as minerals, conventional energy, and pipelines.



Monitor and Measure and Assess the Impact of the ERIF Assistance Program

To continue administering the ERIF Assistance Program with sound fiscal stewardship, Permitting Council staff will continue to require the inclusion of provisions in funding agreements with recipients that contain meaningful performance metrics. Acting as a center for permitting excellence, the Permitting Council advocates for effective measures to clearly identify process bottlenecks and articulate how implemented solutions enable more timely permitting decisions. Incorporating such accountability to permitting improvement efforts brings greater transparency and enables the public to understand how investments result in more timely decisions and accelerates infrastructure investments. Permitting Council staff engage regularly with permitting agencies receiving funding to develop meaningful and impactful measures, accompanied with regular reporting, and monitoring and oversight, as well as coordination to address challenges, identify best practices, and maximize impact to timely and efficient reviews and authorizations. With some of the funded efforts planned to complete in FY 2025, the Permitting Council will analyze the impact of the funding and identify additional ways to apply outcomes, lessons learned, and best practices across the permitting community. In addition, the Executive Director may identify additional investments based on thorough review and potential impact to FAST-41 projects and/or permitting excellence.

Building Expertise to Accelerate Permitting

The Executive Director recognizes that a continual challenge to timely permitting reviews is ensuring the skillsets or expertise are sufficient to make timely decisions. As such, the Executive Director launched the Permitting University in FY 2025, a targeted effort to collectively grow Federal skills and knowledge to enable more timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations. The Permitting University provides off-the-shelf and specialized training designed to address knowledge gaps or increased capacity needs across the Federal Government. Specifically in FY 2025, the Permitting Council will focus on providing training on project management, NHPA Section 106 requirements, the collaborative process for environmental reviews, and the review of NEPA documentation.

FY 2026 Planned Program Highlights

Continue Impactful Investments for Timely Permitting

The Permitting Council will continue to make thoughtful and impactful investments towards timely permitting activities and decisions for FAST-41 infrastructure projects championed by the Administration's priorities. With annual appropriations targeted towards supporting the growing the FAST-41 portfolio, IRA funding can continue to support efforts that accelerate permitting decisions. With a holistic view across the Federal permitting community, the Executive Director is best positioned to understand barriers to timely environmental reviews and authorizations and support solutions that remove barriers, implement innovative solutions, and result in optimized permitting timelines. The Executive Director will work closely with the Administration to prioritize investments that support implementation of FAST-41 and the President's priorities.

Report Outcomes of the ERIF Assistance Funding

In FY 2026, many of the initiatives supported through ERIF Assistance Program funding should be nearing completion. The performance metrics from these initiatives will allow the Permitting Council to more fully assess the permitting efficiencies gained and to develop targeted best practices.

Implement Permitting Improvement Solutions

The Permitting Council plans to finalize a set of prioritized solutions that aid timely environmental reviews and authorizations and then work in FY 2026 to implement and disseminate solutions. The Permitting Council will coordinate with each Federal permitting agency to advance adoption and use of solutions that meet agency-specific needs, address bottlenecks, and promote more timely permitting decisions. As these solutions are developed in FY 2025 and into FY 2026, they may include expanded training through the Permitting University and development and dissemination of user guides, handbooks, templates, RPSs, and other sector-specific resources. The

Executive Director will prioritize efforts that align with the President's priorities and have the most impact on FAST-41 projects and prioritized sectors.



Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2024 – FY 2026 Amounts Available for Obligation (IRA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$331,877	\$217,893	\$130,736
Recovery of prior year obligations	669	7,936	—
Appropriations	—	—	—
Total resources available	\$332,546	\$225,829	\$130,736
Obligations			
Labor	\$1,881	\$4,521	\$ —
Non-labor	112,771	82,636	43,579
Total obligations	\$114,652	\$87,157	\$43,579
Resources less obligations	\$217,893	\$130,736	\$87,157

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2024 – FY 2026 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (IRA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Personnel Compensation and Benefits			
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$1,485	\$3,320	\$ —
12.0 Personnel benefits	396	1,151	—
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	—	50	—
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$1,881	\$4,521	\$ —
Non-Labor			
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	\$ —	\$92	\$ —
22.0 Transportation of things	—	—	—
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	—	—	—
24.0 Printing and reproduction	—	—	—
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	10,415	2,225	—
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	—	100	—
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	97,355	75,219	38,579
26.0 Supplies and materials	—	—	—
31.0 Equipment	—	—	—
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total, Non-Labor	\$112,771	\$82,636	\$43,579
Total Obligations	\$114,652	\$87,157	\$43,579



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