



The Permitting Council

To: Permitting Council Member Agencies

From: Emily Domenech, Executive Director

Date: October 1, 2025

Re: Supporting Permitting Efforts During a Lapse in Appropriations

The Trump Administration has made great progress in advancing the permitting of priority infrastructure projects. Since President Trump took office in January, we have added 53 projects to the FAST-41 Permitting Dashboard to improve the efficiency and transparency of federal permitting. Through the hard work of all our agencies, we have fully completed federal permitting for 6 projects and are on pace to finish 7 more before the end of 2025. Federal permitting has never been a higher priority, or more effective, than it is today under this administration. Fortunately, the current lapse in appropriations will not affect the work of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) because funding continues to be available for this critical work.

The Permitting Council is prepared to fully utilize our statutory authority to keep our historic achievements moving forward. As the Council currently operates via funding provided through the Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF), it does not require annual appropriations to continue operations during a lapse in government funding. Furthermore, through the ERIF, the Permitting Council currently funds staff and activities at several member agencies on the Council to support efficient permitting of FAST-41 projects. Since this funding is not subject to annual appropriations, the Permitting Council expects that these staff and activities will continue through the lapse in annual appropriations.

During this time, the Permitting Council expects that any ERIF-funded staff will also take advantage of the opportunity to focus their efforts entirely on expediting permits for FAST-41 projects that are within the President's stated priorities. This includes projects directed under Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, Executive Order 14153, Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential, Executive Order 14241, Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production, and Executive Order 14318, Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure.

In addition to existing funding agreements, the Permitting Council has additional funds available for new, short-term agreements to support our agencies continuing permitting activities for FAST-41 projects during this lapse in appropriations. This is an opportunity to

drastically and efficiently move projects that support the President's priorities forward. If your agency feels it may need additional funds to support priority permitting during the lapse in annual appropriations, please reach out to the Permitting Council to discuss funding options.

Thank you to all our member agencies for a truly remarkable start to permitting in this administration. The Permitting Council looks forward to supporting the continued success of priority projects for the rest of this administration—despite the lapse in annual appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Domenech', with a stylized, flowing script.

Emily Domenech
Executive Director
Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council