

What is the Permitting Council?

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) was established to improve coordination, transparency, and efficiency in the federal environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects nationwide.

Created under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the Permitting Council is directed by Congress to:

- Create public timetables and structure for federal permitting review
- Convene agencies to improve collaboration, coordinate processes, and increase efficiencies
- Create predictability in the process to avoid permitting delays and increased costs for project sponsors

Permitting Council Members

As defined in statute, the Council consists of 16 individuals:

- The Permitting Council Executive Director (Chair)
- Deputy Secretaries "or equivalent" designated by the heads of 13 federal agencies involved in reviewing and authorizing infrastructure projects
- The Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

Agencies Represented on the Permitting Council:



What Projects are Eligible for FAST-41 Assistance?

The Permitting Council has the authority to provide assistance to projects that fall under one of its 19 covered sectors and meets the *objective criteria which includes:

- Subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
- Likely to require a total investment of more than \$200,000,000; and
- Does not qualify for abbreviated authorization or environmental review processes

FAST-41 Sectors

- Conventional Energy Production
- Mining
- Electricity Transmission
- Surface Transportation
- Aviation
- Ports & Waterways
- Water Resource Projects
- Broadband
- Pipelines
- Manufacturing
- 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
- Renewable Energy Production

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

Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF)

In addition to transparency and coordination, Congress provided the Permitting Council with the ability to transfer funds from the ERIF to federal agencies, states, and tribes to improve the permitting review process. To date, the Permitting Council has allocated funds to allow the hiring of critically needed experts and purchase of vital tools and resources, and has supported vital IT improvements to streamline permitting at 11 federal agencies.

Contact Us

Schedule a call with our team by emailing FAST-41@permitting.gov or visit permitting.gov to learn more about FAST-41 benefits and how to apply

