



Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council

**Fiscal Year 2027
Budget Request**





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Overview

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) requests \$10 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 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 permitting agencies and developers to deliver timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations by identifying emerging issues in the permitting process, 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) the annual discretionary appropriations process;³ 2) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA);⁴ and 3) the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).⁵ 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 agencies represented on 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 enable more timely permitting decisions across Federal agencies. The Permitting Council uses the ERIF to facilitate efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects and to provide for broad improvements in the Federal infrastructure permitting process that can benefit projects beyond FAST-41 and reduce the cost and duration of Federal permitting overall.

This budget requests the amount the Permitting Council needs to fund its operations in FY 2027 and continue growing the FAST-41 project portfolio. Our support to FAST-41 projects measurably improves permitting timelines and advances faster environmental reviews of projects across multiple infrastructure sectors, including conventional energy, mining, data storage and data management, and manufacturing. Without annual appropriations to support agency operations, the Executive Director will have to redirect funding away from permitting improvements that bring measurable time and cost savings to the Federal permitting process, including information technology (IT) solutions, automated processes, and accelerated permitting reviews.

As a result, less funding will be available to directly support major infrastructure projects across the country that can create jobs, fuel prosperity, and significantly reduce our reliance on foreign nations. Funding the FY 2027 Budget Request will directly support the operations of the agency,

¹ Pub. L. No. 114-94 (Dec. 4, 2015).

² 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d).

³ The Permitting Council received appropriations in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-93; Dec. 20, 2019), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260; Dec. 27, 2020), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-103; Mar. 15, 2022).

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021).

⁵ Pub. L. No. 117-169 (Aug. 16, 2022).

providing essential resources to serve a growing portfolio of critical infrastructure projects across the country. The Permitting Council’s previously appropriated funds are best suited to support discrete, timely investments with the highest potential for impactful improvements in permitting outcomes.

For example, in FY 2026 the Executive Director used their authority to transfer funds from the ERIF to provide additional resources to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support conducting environmental reviews for mining projects that were added to the Permitting Dashboard in response to President Trump’s Executive Order 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*. Since the Executive Order was issued, sixteen USDA-led mining projects have been added to the Permitting Dashboard. Similarly, funds provided by the Executive Director from the ERIF to other Federal agencies ensured that Federal permitting efforts for FAST-41 projects continued during the lapse in annual appropriations in October 2025. Fully funding the FY 2027 Budget Request will allow for further investments to improve permitting efficiency, including the development of permitting technology across the Federal government, and further partnerships to align state permitting actions with Federal streamlining.

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.

Comparison of Appropriations

The Permitting Council requests \$10 million in FY 2027, to remain available until expended, to fund the operations of the Permitting Council, including salaries and expenses for 23 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 support 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 2025 - FY 2027 Comparison of Appropriations

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

Budget Account	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	FY 2026 to FY 2027 Change
Salaries & Expenses				
Appropriations, discretionary	\$ —	\$ —	\$10,000	+\$10,000
Appropriations, discretionary (IIJA)	650	400	—	-400
Appropriations, mandatory (IRA)	—	—	—	—
Total	\$650	\$400	\$10,000	+\$9,600
Positions	23	22	24	+2
FTE	21	21	23	+2



Aerial view of the Silver Peak Lithium Mine in Nevada, showing expansive evaporation ponds and rugged desert landscape.

About the Permitting Council

Established in 2015 by FAST-41, the Permitting Council is charged with improving the transparency and efficiency of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain infrastructure projects. The Permitting Council comprises 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 War



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.⁶ 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

⁶ <https://www.permits.performance.gov/>.

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.⁷ 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, 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
- Mining⁸
- Any other sector determined by a majority vote of the Permitting Council

* Except as expressly provided in 42 U.S.C. 4370m-2(f) and 23 U.S.C. 139(o), the “covered projects” requirements and 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 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.

⁷ 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-2(b)(2)(A)(iii).

⁸ 40 C.F.R. § part 1900.



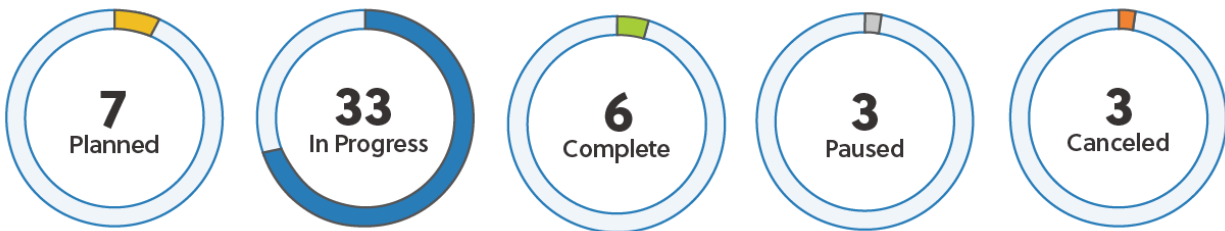
FY 2025 Accomplishments

In FY 2025, the Permitting Council achieved record FAST-41 project portfolio growth, including projects from sectors not previously represented on the Permitting Dashboard. The Permitting Council continued to provide necessary coordination for large, complex infrastructure projects to deliver the necessary permits and authorizations under numerous statutes and regulations. In support of the President’s priorities, the Permitting Council is evolving and refining its programs and initiatives to maximize alignment and support for key infrastructure sectors that will deliver greater energy independence and economic growth for the American people.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

The Executive Director and her staff engaged directly with project sponsors, permitting agencies, and relevant stakeholders to navigate many permitting challenges and increase coordination, transparency, and accountability provided through FAST-41 implementation. The FAST-41 portfolio saw record growth in FY 2025, driven by the President’s executive actions facilitating and encouraging more affordable, reliable, and domestically-sourced energy. Twenty-nine new covered projects joined the FAST-41 portfolio in FY 2025, compared to only five new projects added in all of FY 2024. With the addition of these projects, the FAST-41 covered project portfolio included 52 projects undergoing active Federal review at some point during FY 2025, by far the most projects covered at one time in the history of the FAST-41 program.

Status of FAST-41 Covered Projects as of September 30, 2025



In FY 2025, six FAST-41 covered projects completed the environmental review and authorization process, which included the following:

- Segment one of the **Alaska FiberOptic Project** became the first Tribal project to complete the FAST-41 program. This project will bring broadband infrastructure to Alaska Native Villages in one of the most rural and underserved regions in the country, where approximately 51 percent of the households live at or below the poverty line. The estimated \$51 million project will install fiber broadband infrastructure directly to five Alaskan Native Villages along the Yukon River, benefitting nearly 600 households, and aiding residents and institutions throughout the communities by creating permanent jobs for Alaska Native and rural residents; bringing new opportunities for distance education, telemedicine, public health, and safety; and aiding in rural economic development.

- The **Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Facility**, located near Port Aransas, Texas, will provide up to 100 million gallons per day of drinkable water. The project successfully completed the Federal permitting process two months earlier than initially expected.
- The **Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line** is a proposed 500-kilovolt transmission line that will run approximately 290 miles across eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, delivering up to 1,000 megawatts of reliable, affordable power in each direction, helping utilities meet customer demand, especially during the Pacific Northwest’s winter peak and the Mountain West’s summer peak.
- In addition, the **Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project** will construct a multi-conduit, underground fiber system spanning more than 235 total miles, which will connect every household and business within the Winnebago Reservation in northeast Nebraska and provide access to high-quality internet capability to homes, businesses, medical facilities, and schools.

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 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 2025, three FAST-41 covered project reviews were concluded with a decision not to move the project forward:

- FAST-41 coverage for the **Kitty Hawk North Wind Project** was canceled in January 2025 due to the project’s sale to Dominion Energy.
- The permit applications for the **Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Project** were withdrawn near the end of FY 2025.
- On May 23, 2025, Arevia Power notified the Permitting Council of their decision to withdraw the **Stagecoach Wind Project** from FAST-41 coverage.

A lead or facilitating agency may request that the Executive Director “pause” the FAST-41 process for a covered project. The permitting timetables for Atlantic Shores North, Grain Belt Express Transmission - Phase 1, and Perkins Renewable Energy Project were paused in FY 2025, joining Beacon Wind and Ocean Wind 1 which were previously paused and remained paused for the duration of FY 2025.

In addition to seeing significant growth in the number of covered projects, the Permitting Council also managed a shift in the types of projects included in the portfolio as more pipeline and mining projects sought FAST-41 coverage, and the first ever manufacturing sector project (Riverview East Stack Extension in Florida) was added to the project portfolio. As a result, the Permitting Council’s activities in FY 2025 promoted additional portfolio growth in sectors

championed by the President and continued to focus on permitting improvement to reduce unnecessary delays which hamper the economic development and job growth achieved through infrastructure projects.

Given that FAST-41 is a voluntary program in which project sponsors apply for coverage, the Administration looked to utilize additional authorities to unleash America's affordable and reliable energy and natural resources. Amendments made to FAST-41 authorized the Executive Director, "in the interests of transparency," to add priority projects to the Federal Permitting Dashboard.⁹ Although not entitled to the full procedural benefits granted to "covered projects" by the statute, such "transparency projects" are posted and transparently managed through permitting timetables on the Permitting Dashboard. During FY 2025, this Administration became the first to use this authority. In response to President Trump's Executive Order *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*, the Permitting Council quickly identified 35 transparency projects, thereby taking immediate action to facilitate domestic production of America's vast mineral resources to create jobs, fuel prosperity, and significantly reduce our reliance on foreign nations. Of these transparency projects, two (La Jara Mesa and Tonopah Flats Lithium) became FAST-41 covered projects and four others, listed below, completed the Federal permitting process in FY 2025.

- The **3PL Railroad Valley Exploration Project** will look for lithium, boron, tungsten, sodium, potassium, and phosphate in an area encompassing 40 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in Railroad Valley of Nye County, Nevada.
- The **Amelia A&B Project**, located near Jesup, Georgia, involves the excavation of mineral bearing sands on 7,120 acres of land to extract titanium oxide, zircon, and other minerals.
- The **Aqqaluk Pit Exploration and Expansion Project** is an expansion of current mining operations at the existing Aqqaluk Pit at the Red Dog Mine in Alaska, and will advance the mining of zinc, a critical mineral essential to the process of galvanizing steel to protect against corrosion, amongst other uses.
- The **Stibnite Gold Project**, located in central Idaho, will entail open pit mining and processing of gold and antimony, new road construction, utility upgrades, reclamation and restoration activities.

The Permitting Council is already delivering on the President's direction to leverage our Nation's mineral resources to drive prosperity and lessen reliance on foreign sources for minerals. Swift completion of the permitting process once posted to the Permitting Dashboard demonstrates the value transparency plays in accelerating permitting decisions across Federal agencies. The Executive Director continues to evaluate mining projects that could benefit from designation as a transparency project, as well as explore other priority sectors that would benefit from greater transparency.

⁹ Section 70801(c)(2)(A) of Pub. L. No. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021; 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-2(b)(2)(A)(iii)).

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 provided through FAST-41 to ensure awareness of milestones and encourage continual movement of permitting actions 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 effectuates the coordination and planning needed for such large, complex infrastructure projects.

The Permitting Council continues 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 a Record of Decision 23 percent 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 project timetables for common delay points will better inform the development of solutions to further improve the overall timeliness of the permitting process.

Targeted Outreach to Amplify Awareness and Adoption of FAST-41

The Permitting Council increased communications and outreach activities to meaningfully engage with project developers to raise awareness of and increase participation in FAST-41. As a voluntary program, 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.

Outreach efforts focused on fostering relationships across Federal agencies, private industry, and state, local, and Tribal governments by connecting with sector-specific, regional, and sector-focused audiences to raise awareness of and increase participation in FAST-41. Highlights from FY 2025 outreach activities included:

- **New Agency Website:** In early FY 2025, the Permitting Council launched permitting.gov, its own website developed to support consistent engagement with permitting stakeholders, and provide the public access to FAST-41 related information, resources, and announcements. Since its launch, the website has played a major role in raising awareness of the Permitting Council's work, with over a 600 percent growth in website traffic since the start of the Trump Administration.



A laptop on an outdoor table displaying the Permitting.gov website homepage.

- **Meaningful Industry Outreach:** The Permitting Council has focused extensively on outreach activities to amplify awareness and speak to the value of opting in to FAST-41 coverage. In FY 2025, agency leadership increased engagement with priority infrastructure areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers, mining, and energy production. These engagements provide the opportunity to speak to the benefits of FAST-41, amplify the President’s message of unlocking American energy resources, and drive new contact with potential project sponsors in sectors the agency has yet to touch. In addition to speaking engagements, the Permitting Council saw significant success in leveraging traditional media and social media to highlight the benefits and success of the FAST-41 program which helped drive growth to the FAST-41 portfolio.
- **State Focused Outreach:** The Permitting Council has statutory authority to coordinate with states to improve permitting efficiency and transparency. In FY 2025, the Permitting Council exercised this authority for the first time, developing a first-of-its-kind agreement with the State of Alaska to ensure better coordination with the state on critical infrastructure projects.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed in August 2025, is a part of delivering on President Trump’s Executive Order *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential*, which committed to reverse the damaging policies and actions of the previous Administration and restore access to Alaska’s abundant resources for the benefit of the Nation and the people of Alaska. The MOU outlines the intention of the state and Federal government to cooperatively identify projects for FAST-41 coverage and transparency status. As part of the agreement, the Permitting Council will provide Federal permitting support to select projects in the state, ensuring focused technical assistance, transparency, accountability, and predictability in the permitting process. The Permitting Council will provide the State of Alaska with a wide variety of support, including:

- Assisting the state in determining the FAST-41 eligibility of projects;
- Providing dedicated Permitting Council staff for each covered project, with regularly scheduled coordination calls on at least a monthly basis;
- Developing tools to aid in the implementation of FAST-41, from a unique state FAST-41 application template to fact sheets and other tools;
- Engaging with project sponsors in the state portfolio to provide FAST-41 briefings as requested.

Drive Permitting Improvement and Innovation through Technology

As part of the transition to the Trump Administration, the Permitting Council began assessing funding provided through the ERIF Assistance Program, which helps permitting agencies to advance FAST-41 projects and institute permitting efficiencies. In response to executive actions and the President’s energy priorities, the Permitting Council paused funding pertaining to off-shore wind, and later paused other investments in order to complete a thorough review to evaluate performance metrics and intended outcomes. The Permitting Council then began reviewing funding agreements to ensure alignment with Administration priorities of energy dominance, critical mineral production, and technology (data centers, AI) development. As a part

of this review, the Permitting Council began to reassess nearly \$45 million in technology solutions. The reviews also include ensuring that each investment includes appropriate metrics and will result in measurable and meaningful permitting improvements.

As the Permitting Council reviewed investments, some funding continued to advance the Administration and Permitting Council’s goals toward faster permitting timelines for economically needed infrastructure projects. Accomplishments from investments that align with the Trump Administration’s priorities included:

The Permitting Council is targeting funding towards permitting improvements on critical minerals, energy dominance and American leadership in technology.

- **Improving programmatic approaches to expedite permitting**

- *Department of Homeland Security*: Adopted 18 categorical exclusions from the Department of Energy (DOE), for use by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to expedite reviews for disaster recovery and resiliency projects.
- *Environmental Protection Agency*: Coordinated with developers and states to streamline and optimize the Class VI permitting process and accelerate primacy decisions, which enables state, Tribes or territories to manage Class VI permitting after demonstrating their requirements align with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Class VI primacy can expedite permitting by reducing Federal backlog and relying on local expertise. As a result of this partnership, Texas was recently approved to implement Underground Injection Control (UIC) programs covering all well-types (Class I-VI), allowing better coordination and improved efficiencies.

- **Automating processes to enable faster permitting reviews and decisions**

- *Department of Agriculture*: Developed automation of Rural Business Cooperative Service loan/grant applications estimating to save over 2,900 hours of effort per year allowing greater focus on reviews. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Services Web Environmental Analysis Tool utilizes geospatial data services to automate the farm service environmental screening scoping process, resulting in a 98 percent decrease in time to complete this process for construction loans, dropping from more than four hours to minutes.
- *National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)*: Development of the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool to support the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program in issuing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions is estimated to eliminate 3 to 6 months of environmental processing per project, and support NTIA in meeting its goal of issuing two-week approvals for 90 percent of broadband projects, expediting an estimated 7,200 BEAD deployments to connect Americans in every U.S. state and territory.
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS)*: FWS has developed “determination keys” that are logically structured sets of questions to assist in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for an existing Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation outcome. This tool allows FWS to more quickly and efficiently provide automated concurrence letters, taking 1-2 weeks instead of several months.

Establishing a Merit-Based Federal Workforce

The Permitting Council supports the Administration’s efforts to ensure an effective and efficient workforce. During FY 2025, the Permitting Council implemented guidance to promote accountable performance management practices. Specifically, the Permitting Council provided specialized training to all supervisors to ensure a merit and outcome based approach to performance. The Permitting Council updated internal policies and procedures to incorporate all Administration guidance to reinforce appropriate performance management principles and tactics. Additionally, the Permitting Council began updating recruitment and staffing processes to reduce time-to-hire metrics and ensure streamlined practices. The Permitting Council remains committed to keeping a lean, effective workforce and continues thoughtful and necessary staffing to optimize taxpayer dollars.



View of a pipeline among the forest wilderness of the interior of Alaska.

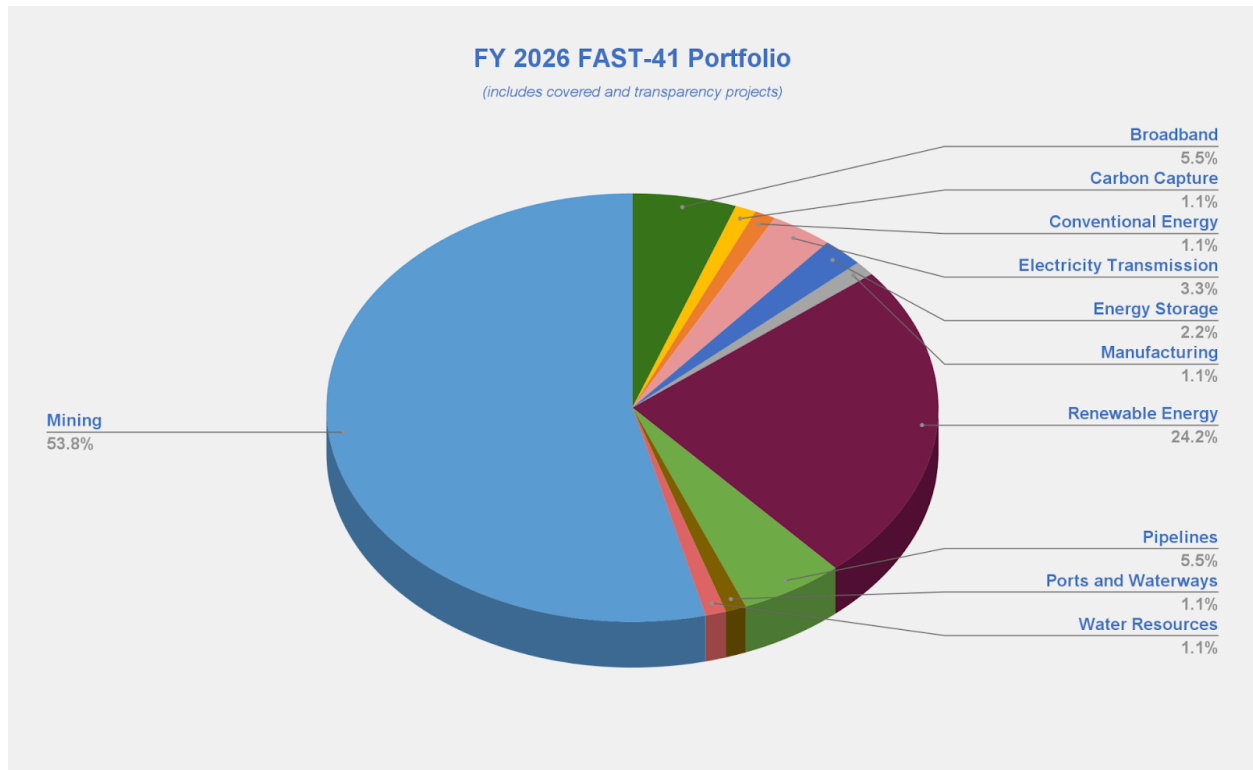


FY 2026 Program Highlights

In FY 2026, the Permitting Council plans to serve more infrastructure projects to accelerate permitting timelines and drive greater economic investments that unleash American energy, promote energy dominance, and provide transparency on permitting practices. Specifically, the agency will promote additional portfolio growth in sectors championed by the President and will continue its focus on permitting improvement to reduce unnecessary delays hampering the economic development and job growth achieved through infrastructure projects.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

The Administration continues to build upon the successes it achieved last year, further growing the project portfolio and expanding into new sectors. The FY 2026 portfolio of FAST-41 projects, including transparency projects, currently includes 91 projects across 11 sectors as highlighted below:



Below details the current portfolio broken out by FAST-41 covered projects followed by transparency projects.



FAST-41 Covered Projects by Sector (58)



Mining (16)

- Bear Lodge Rare Earth Project (WY)
- Black Pine Gold Project (ID)
- Castle Mountain Mine Phase 2 Project (CA/NV)
- Contango Ore Johnson Tract Critical Metals Project (AK)
- Crownpoint / Church Rock Uranium Project (NM)
- Dewey Burdock ISR Uranium Project (SD)**
- Donlin Gold Project (AK)
- Grants Precision ISR Project (NM)
- Graphite Creek Project (AK)**
- Hell's Kitchen Critical Minerals and Power (CA)
- Kilbourne Graphite Project (NY)
- La Jara Mesa Project (NM)
- South Fort Meade - South of SR 64 Parcels (FL)
- South Railroad Mine Project (NV)**
- South32 Hermosa Critical Minerals Project (AZ)**
- Tonopah Flats Lithium Project (NV)



Manufacturing (1)

- Riverview East Stack Extension (FL)



Broadband (5)

- NANA Regional Broadband Network (AK)**
- Navajo Nation Department of Education E-Rate Funded Broadband Project (NM)**
- Navajo Nation Gallup McKinley County Schools E-Rate Funded Broadband Project (NM)**
- Santa Fe Indian School Broadband (NM)
- Winnebago Tribe Broadband Connectivity Project (NE)**



Carbon Capture and Sequestration (1)

- Pelican Carbon Sequestration Hub (CA)



Energy Storage (2)

- Seminole Pumped Storage Project (WY)
- White Pine Pumped Storage (NV)



Water Resources (1)

- Santee Sioux Tribe Water Capacity and Infrastructure Improvements (NE/SD)



Pipelines (5)

- Alaska LNG Project (AK)*
- Cobra Master Development Plan (TX)**
- Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project (MS)
- Mississippi Crossing Project (AL/MS)
- South System Expansion 4 (AL/GA/MS)



Conventional Energy Production (1)

- Black Bear Natural Gas Development (TX)



Electricity Transmission (3)

- Grain Belt Express Transmission - Phase 1 (KS/MO)
- Royal Slope Power Transmission Line Project (WA)
- Silver Rock Transmission Project (NV)



Renewable Energy Production (22)

- Atlantic Shores North (NJ)
- Attentive Energy Two Offshore Wind Project (NY)
- Bay State Wind Project (MA)***
- Beacon Wind (MA/NY)
- Bluepoint Wind I (NY)
- Bonanza Solar Project (NV)
- Desert Charger Energy Project (CA)
- Kawich Solar Project (NV)
- Kitty Hawk South Offshore Wind Project (NC)
- Larrea Solar Project (NV)
- Mosey Solar Project (NV)
- Ocean Wind 1 Project (NJ)
- Pantheon Solar Project (NV)
- Perkins Renewable Energy Project (CA)
- Robert C. Byrd Hydroelectric Project (WV)
- Samantha Solar (NV)
- Silver Star Solar (NV)
- Skipjack Wind Farm (MD)***
- South Bennett Solar (ID)
- SouthCoast Wind (MA)
- Vineyard Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Project (NY)
- Vineyard Northeast (CT/MA)



Ports and Waterways (1)

- Sparrows Point Container Terminal (MD)*

* Completed the permitting process in early FY 2026.

** Expected to complete the permitting process by the end of FY 2026.

*** Cancelled in early FY 2026.



FAST-41 Transparency Projects (33) (all in the Mining sector)

Angel Island Project (NV)	Greens Creek Surface Exploration (AK)*	NorthMet Project (MN)
Antler Copper Project (AZ)**	Kings Mountain Lithium Material Processing Plant (NC)**	Polaris Exploration Project (NV)**
Becky's Mine Modification (MT)*	Libby Exploration Project (MT)**	Resolution Copper Project (AZ)**
Blue Copper (MT)	Liberty Owl (AR/TX)	Roca Honda Project (NM)
Bronco Creek Exploration Project (AZ)	Lisbon Valley Copper Project (UT)*	Sheep Creek Project (ID/MT)
Burnt Rock Exploration Project (NV)	Maxville Expansion (FL)***	Silver Peak Lithium Mine (NV)*
Caldwell Canyon Mine Project (ID)*	McDermitt Exploration Project (OR)**	South West Arkansas Project (AR)**
Copper Creek Exploration Project (AZ)*	Michigan Potash (MI)	Stillwater Mine (MT)
DeLamar Project (ID)	Muncy Creek Mineral Exploration Project (NV)**	Sweetwater Project (WY)
Doe Run (MO)	Nikolai Nickel Project (AK)**	Trail Ridge South Project (FL)**
Golden Mile Mine Project (NV)		Warrior Met Coal Mines (AL)*
Grassy Mountain Mine Project (OR)**		

* Completed the permitting process in early FY 2026.

** Expected to complete the permitting process by the end of FY 2026.

*** Cancelled in early FY 2026.

The addition of dozens of new covered projects in FY 2025 and so far in FY 2026 clearly signals an increasing awareness of the value of participating in the FAST-41 program and the benefits from coordination in the Federal environmental review process. With the continued portfolio growth, the Permitting Council plans to add two additional infrastructure project advisors to ensure the quality of engagement and coordination necessary for optimized permitting timetables.

Two FAST-41 covered projects already completed the permitting process during the first quarter of FY 2026, which were the following:

- **Alaska LNG** will comprise an 800-mile pipeline to transport an expected 3.5 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from Alaska's North Slope to a liquefaction facility in South Central Alaska for export. The project successfully completed the Federal permitting process earlier than initially expected.
- The **Sparrows Point Container Terminal** is a proposed 330-acre redevelopment project within Sparrows Point, Maryland, consisting of 168 acres for a new container terminal and intermodal yard. Once completed, this project will double the container capacity of the Port of Baltimore.

As currently scheduled, nine additional FAST-41 covered projects are expected to complete the permitting process by the end of FY 2026. Of these, one is a pipeline project and four are mining projects:

- The **Cobra Master Development Plan** proposes to build a trunk pipeline and associated infrastructure in Shelby County, Texas, for the extraction and transportation of natural gas. The approval of the project will allow development of existing Federal mineral leases in the area to increase over the next 10-15 years.



- The **Dewey Burdock In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Uranium Project** is a proposed uranium production facility located in Fall River and Custer Counties, South Dakota, that will recover uranium from subsurface sandstone ore bodies through ISR technology. This process involves the injection of a lixiviant solution into production wellfields to dissolve uranium minerals in place and pump the uranium-bearing solution to a central processing plant for recovery.

- **South32 Hermosa** is a \$1.7 billion project located 55 miles south of Tucson, Arizona, which will bring greater access to zinc and manganese mineral resources which contribute to greater energy dominance and national security.

- The **Graphite Creek Project**, situated on the Seward Peninsula about 37 miles north of Nome, Alaska, will extract graphite ore and produce a graphite concentrate for further processing and manufacturing to support the development of lithium-ion battery and energy storage.

- Located 16 miles south of Carlin, Nevada, the **South Railroad Mine Project** proposes to construct, operate and reclaim a new gold and silver mine from which ore would be extracted using conventional surface mining techniques and associated facilities.

In addition, seven transparency mining projects on the Permitting Dashboard already completed the permitting process in FY 2026 (Caldwell Canyon, Lisbon Valley Copper and Copper Creek) and 11 more are expected to complete the permitting process by the end of FY 2026. The three mining transparency projects that completed the permitting process already in FY 2026 are as follows:

- The **Becky's Mine Modification Project**, located in Bridger, Montana, will mine for bentonite, a versatile resource essential to American industries ranging from agriculture and construction to animal health and pharmaceuticals.

- The **Caldwell Canyon Mine Project** will extract phosphate ore in Caribou County, Idaho, from three existing Federal phosphate leases and one state phosphate lease, by constructing two open pits, haul and access roads, utility lines, water management features, monitoring wells, and shop and office facilities.

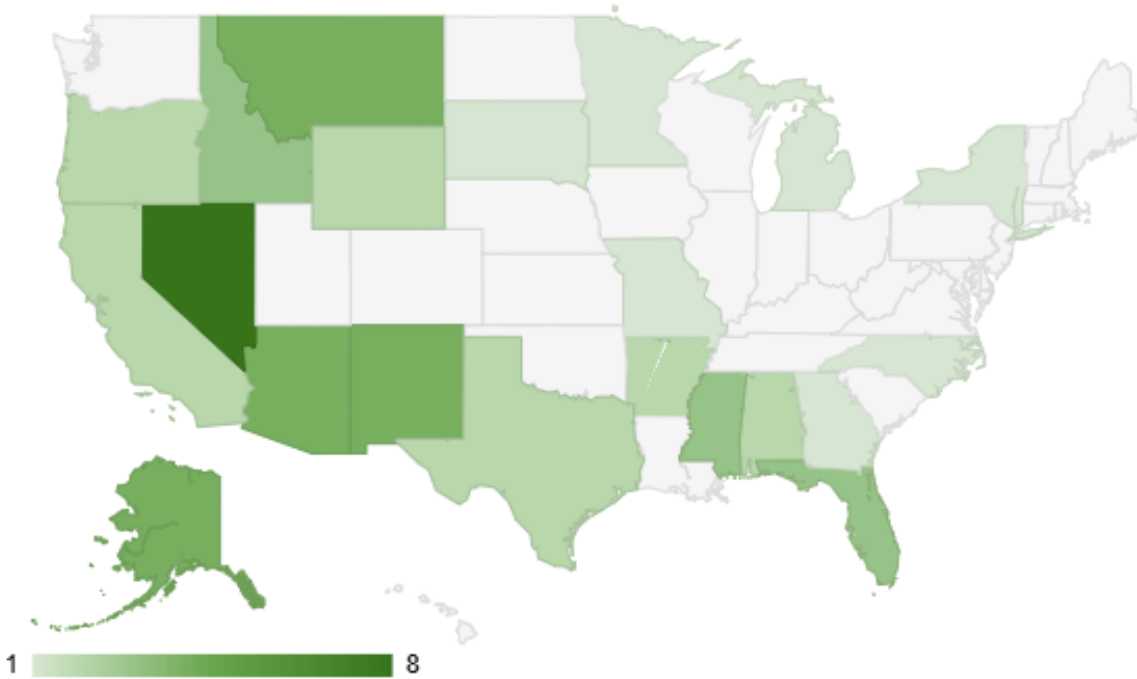
- The **Copper Creek Exploration Project** will pursue exploration activities for porphyry copper in Pinal County, Arizona, with drilling activities consisting of 67 drill pads within less than 200 acres.

Drill rig in operation at the Graphic Creek Project in Alaska.

- Located on Admiralty Island, just outside of Juneau Alaska, the **Greens Creek Surface Exploration Project** is the Nation’s largest silver mine. Surface exploration for mineral deposits, including silver, gold, lead, and zinc, will reduce U.S. reliance on foreign nations while strengthening national and economic security.
- The **Lisbon Valley Copper Project**, located in San Juan County, Utah, will expand open pit and beneficiation operations, initiate the extraction of copper through ISR, and will include a new open pit, waste rock storage area, process ponds, and ISR wells.
- Located in Esmeralda County, Nevada, the **Silver Peak Lithium Mine Project** will expand operations of the active mine, which is the only operational domestic production of lithium in the Nation. The lithium produced at Silver Peak helps meet demand for battery production, life-saving equipment used by NASA and the U.S. Navy, building products (cement, tile, mortar), steel, and welding.
- Located in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, the **Warrior Met Coal Mines Project** supports access to metallurgical coal, a critical material used in steel production for manufacturing, infrastructure, and defense applications.

The Administration has issued several executive orders aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing and technological advancement. Red tape and burdensome regulations often stand in the way of investments and innovations that power manufacturing in the United States, especially related to the mining and processing of minerals that manufacturers rely on to create jobs, protect our national security, and fuel economic prosperity. Similarly, environmental permitting and other regulations have made it challenging to build the infrastructure necessary to produce artificial intelligence chips in the United States with the speed that is required to usher in a new golden age for American technological dominance. Driven by the Administration’s *AI Action Plan* and the Executive Order on *Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure*, the Permitting Council is working with relevant Federal permitting agencies to identify quality manufacturing and technology infrastructure projects that can be designated as transparency projects, including data storage facilities, artificial intelligence data centers, and the infrastructure that powers them, such as dispatchable power and high-voltage transmission lines. The Permitting Council also facilitates the transition of eligible projects from transparency projects to FAST-41 covered projects whenever possible to promote even greater accountability.

Active Projects in Administration Priority Sectors (Mining, Manufacturing, Pipelines)



Another area of focus in FY 2026 will be prioritizing seabed mapping and mineral exploration, ensuring reliable access to critical minerals like manganese, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements. Deep sea mining, like traditional forms of land-based mining, is critical to acquiring the key minerals that are used in everything from defense systems and batteries to smartphones and medical devices. To support efforts to access these resources, the Permitting Council voted to establish a collaboration group to identify Federal permitting requirements and consider template timelines for deep seabed mining projects. The collaboration group completed their initial compilation in November and the template timelines are now available for use for proposed deep seabed mining projects under Federal purview. The Permitting Council will continue to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, other Federal agencies and private industry to provide the resources necessary for license and permit reviews to ensure that those reviews are completed without undue delays, providing access to mineral deposits that are key to the health and resilience of U.S. supply chains.

Driving Permitting Improvement and Innovation

Based on reviews beginning in FY 2025, the Permitting Council will finalize adjustments to existing ERIF Assistance investments in FY 2026 to align with Administration priorities and refine metrics to fully demonstrate the impact on permitting improvement. This work includes coordination with Permitting Council member agencies, OMB, and CEQ to prioritize holistic, dramatic improvements in permitting processes across Federal agencies.

With agreements and returns on investment newly aligned, the Permitting Council will assess the impact of the funding on permitting efficiency with a goal to maximize taxpayer dollars, increase transparency, and deliver on economic growth through infrastructure development.

Additionally, the Permitting Council will have an increased focus on permitting technology solutions in support of Presidential Memorandum “Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century.” The Permitting Council will explore and solicit new opportunities for funding IT solutions across Federal agencies and scope agency-wide solutions operated by the Permitting Council. New IT solutions will encompass multiple priorities. First, the Permitting Council is coordinating with CEQ to ensure new solutions align with CEQ’s Permitting Technology Action Plan and relevant agencies’ implementation plans for a unified approach to permitting technologies. Secondly, each IT solution must identify how it will improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the permitting processes in tangible and meaningful ways, by identifying savings such as cost or time. Next, solutions should leverage AI capabilities as applicable to increase permitting effectiveness and reduce time and costs for critical infrastructure projects. Finally, solutions should allow for integration and scalability to ensure optimized utility and allow for sharing of permitting data across the government for improved timelines. All IT funding decisions will be assessed annually to ensure measurable permitting benefits and ultimately faster permitting decisions.

New Permitting IT Solutions will:

- Align with CEQ’s Permitting Technology Action Plan
- Demonstrate Cost and Time savings
- Incorporate Interoperability and Scalability
- Leverage AI

These realigned investments and new IT solutions will work together to make permitting more efficient, furthering the President’s goals to unleash American energy and increase American mineral production through accelerated Federal permitting.

Specific investments aimed at leveraging technology and AI solutions for permitting processes include the following.

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development will develop a geographic information systems tool that will integrate critical environmental data from Federal partners which will eliminate the need for preparers to consult multiple sources to gather and analyze data for compliance with environmental laws and authorities and reduce delays caused by use of incorrect or outdated data.
- The Permitting Council is enabling DOE to pilot PermitAI, a tool harnessing artificial intelligence to aggregate data for NEPA reviews and draft Environmental Impact Statements significantly faster. This tool will be piloted at five other permitting agencies to include the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA’s U.S. Forest Service and Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development, and the

Department of Commerce, CHIPS Program Office. Utilizing PermitAI for NEPA research, drafting, and comment processing could reduce time by up to 50 percent.



Close-up aerial of a cellular wireless mobile data tower with a neighborhood surrounding.

Building State, Local and Tribal Capacity for FAST-41 Projects

The Permitting Council seeks to build on the advancements of its outreach and FAST-41 portfolio growth through a new program providing funding to state, local, and Tribal governments to accelerate permitting critical infrastructure projects. This program will drive progress in delivering on the President’s promise of unleashing American energy and resources with a focus on the following FAST-41 infrastructure sectors: mining, pipelines, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and dispatchable power. In FY 2026, the Permitting Council will explore effective funding mechanisms and design a program that focuses on measurable outcomes that accelerate permitting timelines for critical infrastructure investments, improve visibility into permitting processes, and streamline processes for project sponsors.

More Effective Permitting Dashboard

The Permitting Dashboard plays a critical role in driving timely permitting decisions and brings transparency to the public with defined milestones and deadlines. Data collected

through the Dashboard provides valuable knowledge on common permitting delays and the implementation of best practices to better streamline the permitting process. In support of Administration efforts to leverage technology to enable permitting efficiencies, the Permitting Council will take steps towards a reimagined Permitting Dashboard that uses cutting-edge technological capabilities to streamline and automate workflows, enhance data integrity and analytics, and improve user experience.

Bolstering Communications and Outreach Efforts

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 supporting the agency’s strategic goals and targeting sectors that most meaningfully impact the President’s goal towards energy dominance and accessing untapped resources, such as expanding mining, transmission and dispatchable powerlines, pipelines, data centers storage, and manufacturing

opportunities. Building on FY 2025 efforts, the Permitting Council will continue outreach to states to establish MOUs similar to Alaska to drive increased participation in FAST-41 and better align state and Federal permitting timetables. Since the execution of the Alaska MOU, two new mining projects in Alaska – Donlin Gold and Nikolai Nickel – have been added to the Permitting Dashboard.

Additionally, outreach will also target sectors not previously represented on the Permitting Dashboard, to ensure FAST-41 is serving the full array of infrastructure sectors that contribute to our economy. As such, the Permitting Council will engage industry and potential project sponsors in these sectors to demonstrate how the FAST-41 process can alleviate permitting bottlenecks and accelerate infrastructure development. Engagement with industry and the infrastructure permitting community will also enable a better understanding of policy and practitioner pain points to help shape Permitting Council services and solutions.

Establishing a Merit-Based Federal Workforce

The Permitting Council is poised for advancing implementation with the Administration’s Merit Hiring Plan guidance with all employees transitioning to updated performance elements. This will enable greater employee accountability and effective evaluation of impactful, results-oriented performance. In FY 2026, the Permitting Council will focus on optimizing its hiring practices to ensure proactive staffing practices that include a reduction of average time-to-hire, the implementation of improved feedback loops to include hiring manager suggestions into ongoing recruitment activities, and refined outreach and recruitment practices to effectively target candidates committed to the efficiency of the Federal government and passionate about civil service.



FY 2027 Request

For FY 2027, the Permitting Council anticipates more efficiencies along with time and cost savings from Permitting Council funded IT investments and process improvements. Focus will continue on serving the growing FAST-41 portfolio and emphasizing progress against sectors that advances the President's priorities towards greater transparency in the Federal permitting process.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

The Permitting Council's efforts in FY 2027 will heavily focus on advancing new projects in support of the President's priority sectors. 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 data centers, 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.

Drive Permitting Improvement and Innovation

In FY 2027, the Permitting Council aims to achieve more results and accomplishments through ERIF Assistance funding, effectively delivering against our strategic goals and the priorities of the Administration. The Permitting Council anticipates reporting against achievements of the funding and demonstrating the benefits to permitting timelines, transparency, and efficiencies.

Additionally, in coordination with CEQ, the Permitting Council will continue to prioritize the advancement of technological solutions to effectuate efficiencies and remove permitting delays. To ensure judicious use of funds and advancement of Administration goals, the Permitting Council will enhance its monitoring of spending and outcomes of investments, with an eye toward taxpayer costs saved and time efficiencies gained.

The Permitting Council anticipates initiating a new program in FY 2027 to provide targeted funding to state, local, and Tribal governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. As such, the Permitting Council will coordinate extensively with non-Federal government entities involved with FAST-41 projects to propel the permitting process forward, reach decisions faster, and drive economic impacts.

Finally, internal to the Permitting Council, the agency will advance innovation by furthering implementation of a refined Permitting Dashboard. The Permitting Council will support a solution that aligns with CEQ's guidance for permitting technology.

Establishing a Merit-Based Federal Workforce

FY 2027 will see the agency’s final and full implementation of, and compliance with, the Merit Hiring Plan to include the continual monitoring of several hiring metrics, including results of efforts in increasing early career talent, STEM positions, and veteran and military spouse hiring. The Permitting Council will fully implement refined assessment practices during the vacancy announcement process with technical and alternative qualification assessments. Additionally, the Permitting Council will finalize an agency-wide position description review to eliminate irrelevant requirements and include skills-based language. The Permitting Council remains committed to a merit-based hiring program and practices to attract and hire the very best.

Explanation of FY 2027 Changes

FY 2026 to FY 2027 Budget Changes

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	Amount	Positions	FTE
FY 2026 Annualized CR	\$ –		
Operational Expenses funded from ERIF:			
Discretionary appropriations, no-year, carryover	\$643		
IJA funding			
IRA funding	400		
	7,014	22	21.4
FY 2026 Operational Expenses	\$8,057	22	21.4
Adjustments to Base:			
Changes in prior year personnel costs	109	–	0.6
Inflation and other mandatory adjustments	193		
Total, Adjustments to Base	302	–	0.6
FY 2026 Current Services	\$8,359	22	22.0
Program Changes:			
New positions	347	2	1.5
Office space equipment	50		
Other program changes	1,244		
Total, Program Changes	1,641	2	1.5
Total, FY 2027 Appropriations Request	\$10,000	24	23.5

Adjustments to Base

- **Changes in Prior Year Personnel Costs (+\$109,000)** — The budget request reflects the annualization of positions filled in FY 2026, promotions for existing staff and anticipated within-grade increases.

- **Inflation and Other Mandatory Adjustments (+\$193,000)** — The budget request reflects the impact of inflation and standard increases in service fees for financial management, human resources, information technology, and contract support services.

Program Changes

- **New Positions (+\$347,000)** — With the increasing growth of the FAST-41 portfolio, the Permitting Council requires two additional hires to ensure optimal support for FAST-41 projects moving through the permitting process.
- **Office Space Equipment(+\$50,000)** — In support of the President’s direction to return the Federal workforce to an office, the Permitting Council acquired office space in FY 2026, resulting in additional operational costs to equip the space with necessary resources, tools, and supplies in FY 2027.
- **Other Program Changes (+\$1,244,000)** — As the FAST-41 project portfolio grows along with expanded use of the transparency project authority 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.



Aerial view of solar farm battery storage units.

Funding Tables

Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2025 - FY 2027 Amounts Available for Obligation

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$218,253	\$154,929	\$93,000
Recovery of prior year obligations	18,197	—	—
Spending authority from offsetting collections	64	—	—
Appropriations	650	400	10,000
Total resources available	\$237,164	\$155,329	\$103,000
Obligations			
Labor	\$4,673	\$4,906	\$5,269
Non-labor	77,562	57,422	55,802
Total obligations	\$82,235	\$62,329	\$61,072
Resources less obligations	\$154,929	\$93,000	\$41,929

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2025 - FY 2027 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Personnel Compensation and Benefits			
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$3,462	\$3,539	\$3,842
12.0 Personnel benefits	1,210	1,276	1,428
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	—	91	—
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$4,673	\$4,906	\$5,269
Non-Labor			
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	\$162	\$200	\$200
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	1	351	368
24.0 Printing and reproduction	4	1	1
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	2,542	2,335	3,860
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	21	115	121
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	74,773	54,327	51,128
25.4 Operations and maintenance of facilities	—	25	26
25.7 Operations and maintenance of equipment	2	—	—
26.0 Supplies and materials	51	56	56
31.0 Equipment	8	12	42
Total, Non-Labor	\$77,562	\$57,422	\$55,802
Total Obligations	\$82,235	\$62,329	\$61,072



View of an open-pit copper mine in Arizona.