

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A STREAMLINED AND FAIR PERMITTING PROCESS

1. **Establish a timeline for NEPA reviews** detailing a deadline for environmental impact statements and environmental assessments, which the SPEED Act provides.
2. Empower the President to designate and update a diverse list of **critical infrastructure projects to prioritize** federal permitting on.
3. **Expand eligibility, including under FAST-41**, for the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council programs to include energy projects, new technologies, critical minerals and mining, data centers, and others.
4. **A single lead agency** should be designated following a project application to oversee and issue a single environmental review and a uniform purpose of need statement.
5. **Clarify FERC jurisdiction on interstate pipelines**, associated facilities, and the economic factors associated with these assets.
6. **Strengthen FERC's authority** as the lead agency to permit electric transmission and natural gas pipeline projects and require federal, state and tribal agencies with a review role to participate simultaneously with and on a timeline determined by FERC, instead of on a separate and staggered basis. Additionally, Congress, to the greatest extent possible, should expand categorical exclusions for the building of transmission lines.
7. **Establish a statute of limitations and deadline to file lawsuits** against issued permits and establish reasonable limits on who has standing to bring lawsuits against issued permits and projects.
8. Congress should codify and **encourage the use of tiering, allowing projects of similar types to build their analysis on previous environmental assessments** and existing studies.
9. Develop a process with **greater transparency and oversight**. Combining this process with public notifications would aid in ensuring projects are easily and closely tracked by stakeholders and government officials.
10. Congress must **fully fund CEQ, FPISC, Department of Commerce and other federal agencies**, and the various agency staff with NEPA responsibilities to ensure timely completion of reviews. Further, Congress must ensure these funds are not bottlenecked and are distributed in a timely manner.
11. Allow applicants, contractors, and local communities to **participate in the preparation of documents** for the NEPA review process.
12. **Section 401 of the Clean Water Act must be revised** to limit the timeline for certification decisions by states, and Section 401 must be revised to limit veto power. Both of these reforms would be provided for under the PERMIT Act.
13. **Establish certainty for approved projects** so that once final permits are issued and funding is allotted, permits cannot be rescinded or further challenged and funding cannot be halted.