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Permitting Council

Where projects see progress

Greetings from the Executive Director:

On behalf of the Permitting Council I hope you are having a wonderful start to the fall season. Fall sports are underway and major league baseball is sprinting towards the playoffs. With an expanded college football playoff and greater parity at the professional level, almost every team still has a shot at something remarkable. It also marks the return of travel soccer for my family, filling our weekends with road trips and our cars with soccer gear. As the weather cools and days shorten, it is also a reminder that this is a season of change and preparation.

Fall is the perfect time to regroup, reset and advance new ideas before the end of the year. And this October 8th the Permitting Council has the perfect opportunity to get the permitting universe together at the inaugural [Infrastructure Developers Summit](#). This half day Summit will bring together project developers, industry leaders and federal government experts to discuss the FAST-41 program, explore permitting opportunities and challenges, all while building relationships that will assist in getting once-in-a-generation infrastructure off the ground. I am incredibly excited about this summit and the work we can advance together as a result. Check out this month's newsletter for more details and make sure to register by October 3rd to attend.

In partnership,

Eric Beightel
Executive Director
The Permitting Council

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Permitting Council
Infrastructure Developers ²⁰/₂₄
SUMMIT

OCTOBER 8, 2024

1:00-5:00 P.M.

Registration Open at 12 P.M.

USDA Headquarters

Washington D.C.

Join the Permitting Council to celebrate FAST-41 permitting progress, discuss solutions and best practices, build relationships, and recognize advancements in permitting.

#PermittingSummit24

RSVP

Where projects see progre

News From the Office of the Executive Director

Registration Deadline on October 3rd! – Infrastructure Developers Summit

Join the Permitting Council at the inaugural Infrastructure Developers Summit! This event is a space made for you to hear from the federal government about how we’re approaching common federal permitting challenges, solutions and best practices, and how our FAST-41 permitting assistance program can help you advance your project during the permitting process.

Who should attend?

- Infrastructure developers
- Past and current FAST-41 project sponsors
- State and local governments
- Tribal governments and representatives
- Federal agency permitting staff and leadership
- Permitting stakeholders

Why should I attend?

- Participants will walk away from this event with a better understanding of Permitting Council services and the benefits of FAST-41 for infrastructure projects.
- The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for participants to connect and network with industry peers and federal government representatives.

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infrastructure project permitting.

Event Details

When: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m. ET (check-in will begin at 12:00 p.m. ET)

Where: USDA Headquarters, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC

Event Hashtag: [#PermittingSummit24](#)

Register [here](#): Spots are filling up fast!

Questions? Contact events@permitting.gov



New Video! Meet the Permitting Council

Meet the Permitting Council - Our New Video

Did you miss it? This month the Permitting Council unveiled a valuable new resource to educate the public about our work. “Meet the Permitting Council” is an engaging new video showcasing the innovative efforts we are advancing together with you, our trusted partners, as we work to bring predictability, transparency, and accountability to the federal permitting process.

Check out our [new video](#) on our YouTube channel for an in-depth look at how our work is making the #infrastructure decade a reality. We encourage you to share the video with your online audience to help spread the word about the great work we are accomplishing together!

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Where projects see progress

Completed FAST-41 Projects

[New England Wind](#)

New England Wind joined the ranks of completed FAST-41 projects over the summer. The \$3 billion project is expected to provide clean, renewable energy to more than 900,000 homes in the northeast. Comprising two wind energy projects totaling 129 wind turbine generators, New England Wind is expected to produce up to 2,600 megawatts of renewable energy.

[Port of Corpus Christi Channel Deepening](#)

The Port of Corpus Christi Authority Channel Deepening Project completed federal environmental review and authorizations with FAST-41 permitting assistance this past July. The \$400 million project will expand one of the largest ports in the nation, a major gateway to international and domestic maritime commerce. A major economic engine in the state of Texas, the Port of Corpus Christi is the largest port in the U.S. in total revenue tonnage.

[Sunrise Wind](#)

Sunrise Wind completed the federal environmental review and authorization process in June. The \$2.3 billion utility scale offshore wind project is expected to power 320,000 homes each year. Located south of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts and east of Block Island, Rhode Island, Sunrise Wind is an 84 wind turbine generation project with a total capacity of 924 megawatts of clean, renewable energy.

Interested in becoming a FAST-41 project? Email FAST-41@permitting.gov to start the conversation.

News From the Permitting Council

White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

[Modernizing NEPA Technology](#): Last month CEQ released new recommendations for using technology to modernize environmental reviews. In a new report to Congress CEQ evaluates permitting processes, including an analysis of 16 different agency technology

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Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Proposed Western Solar Plan: In August BLM announced its proposed roadmap for solar energy development on public lands, designed to expand efficient and environmentally responsible solar project permitting on public lands across the West. The release of the Final Utility-Scale Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments (also known as the proposed updated Western Solar Plan), comes as the Biden-Harris administration releases new data to demonstrate how it has improved federal permitting processes to help deliver more projects, more efficiently, across the United States.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

Accelerating Historic Preservation Review: Last month, the ACHP proposed a draft Program Comment on Accessible, Climate-Resilient, Connected Communities that would accelerate historic preservation review timelines for billions of dollars in investments across the country supported by President Biden's Investing in America agenda by providing federal agencies with an alternate way to comply with their responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



*Eric Beightel, Permitting Council Executive Director
Official U.S. Senate Photo*

Around Town with the Permitting Council

Executive Director Testifies before Senate Committee

In July, Executive Director Eric Beightel provided testimony before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and showcased the Permitting Council's unique role in bringing innovative solutions and efficiency to the permitting process.

Director Beightel testified on the continued growth and success of the Permitting Council's

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projects and the allocation of millions in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding to support efficient reviews.



Fiber Connect 2024

Permitting Council Director of Infrastructure Portfolio, Jennifer Mallard, and Sr. Infrastructure Project Manager, Craig Litteken, were pleased to speak among other experts at FiberConnect 2024 this summer to share how our agency is working to bring efficiency to the permitting process for broadband. Thank you Fiber Broadband Association for a great event!



Site Visits in Nevada and Wyoming

Thank you to RPlus Hydro and the Bureau of Land Management for leading Permitting Council staff on site visits of the White Pine and Seminoe projects this past July. If permitted, these two FAST-41 covered pumped storage hydropower projects will increase access to flexible, renewable energy in the west.



American Clean Power

Director Eric Beightel joined energy experts in June at the American Clean Power Association's (ACP) Inaugural Recharge Energy Storage Summit. Energy storage is a key element of the clean energy transition, and efficient, transparent siting and permitting pathways are critical to getting energy storage projects up and running. Congratulations to ACP on an excellent Summit!

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Environmental Review Improvement Fund Tribal Assistance Program

The Permitting Council is still accepting applications for the Environmental Review Improvement Fund Tribal Assistance Program (ERIF TAP). Scan the QR code and learn more about the application process and apply now!



Newsletter Submissions

The Permitting Council Office of the Executive Director is excited to use this newsletter to amplify all the great work being done at our member agencies. We welcome you to submit content featuring your agency's efforts to improve the transparency, predictability, and outcomes of the federal environmental review process for our next newsletter. Please email media@permitting.gov with newsletter submissions (maximum 400 words).



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