

From: FN-WHO-Local Government <IGA.local@whmo.mil>

To:

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Subject: IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS: President Trump's Administration is working together to improve and streamline environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION IS IMPROVING INEFFICIENT PERMITTING REVIEWS
"No longer will we allow the infrastructure of our magnificent country to crumble and decay. While protecting the environment, we will build gleaming new roads, bridges, railways, waterways, tunnels, and highways."

– President Donald J. Trump

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS: President Trump's Administration is working together to improve and streamline environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects.

- Federal agencies signed the One Federal Decision Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), establishing a coordinated and timely process for environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects.
- The signatories of the MOU have agreed to an unprecedented level of collaboration in the environmental review process and include the:
 - o Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security
 - o Environmental Protection Agency
 - o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - o Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - o Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - o Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
- One lead Federal agency will be responsible for navigating major infrastructure projects through the entire Federal environmental review and permitting process.
 - o Before the MOU, project sponsors had to navigate decision-making processes across multiple Federal agencies.
 - o Federal agencies will work with the lead agency to develop a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and sign a single Record of Decision (ROD).
 - o The lead agency will seek written concurrence from other agencies at important points in the process.
- Federal agencies will follow permitting timetables established by the lead Federal agency, with a goal of completing the process within two years.
 - o In the past, Federal agencies were generally not required to follow a comprehensive permitting timetable.
- Under the MOU, Federal agencies will conduct their review processes at the same time, as opposed to sequentially which has led to unnecessary delays.
- The MOU will ensure interagency disputes are automatically elevated and quickly resolved.
 - o Previously, interagency disputes could drag on for years in Federal agency field offices before being elevated and resolved.

DELIVERING STREAMLINED DECISION-MAKING: The One Federal Decision Memorandum of Understanding follows through on the President's policy of streamlining inefficient and lengthy environmental reviews.

- The One Federal Decision MOU will deliver on the President's policy of One Federal Decision for major infrastructure projects.
- President Trump's Executive Order 13807 directed that a One Federal Decision be used for major infrastructure projects.
 - o The Executive Order directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to develop a framework for implementing

One Federal Decision.

CUTTING COSTLY DELAYS: Inefficient environmental review processes have led to unnecessary delays, depriving our communities of needed infrastructure projects.

- The MOU improves Federal agency cooperation and establishes permitting timetables, cutting down on needless delays.
- Too many important infrastructure projects have been held up for years by the environmental review process.
- The median environmental review completion time for a complex highway project is more than seven years, according to a 2014 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report.
- The environmental review and permitting process for the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge Replacement Project in North Carolina took more than 20 years.
 - o The environmental review process involved numerous studies and interagency disputes and required concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) since the bridge lies within a wildlife refuge.
 - o The original bridge was well past its design life and is being replaced with a design that can better withstand the harsh coastal environment.
 - o The One Federal Decision framework would have allowed for a much quicker environmental review process.
- Loop 202, a critical freeway project which will provide an alternative route of travel around Phoenix, took well over a decade to complete the environmental review process.
 - o Loop 202's environmental review faced numerous setbacks and dragged on for years due to poor communication, no agreed upon timetable, and other issues.
 - o The project, which is the largest in Arizona's history, is finally in the final stages of development.
 - o Had One Federal Decision been in place, agencies could have identified and resolved conflicts throughout project development and reduced their impact on project schedules.

Thanks,

Billy Kirkland
Special Assistant to the President & Deputy Director
White House Intergovernmental Affairs
William.H.Kirkland@who.eop.gov
202-456-8491 - office
202-881-8628 - cell