

Presidential Memoranda

Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century

April 15, 2025

Overview

On April 25, 2025, the White House released a [Presidential Memoranda](#): Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century. This Presidential Directive expands the ways the U.S is currently leveraging technology to conduct environmental reviews and approve permits. It will accelerate the use of permitting tech, project deadlines, and improve transparency.

The Memorandum calls on the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC), and other relevant permitting agencies to create a plan for infrastructure project approval by augmenting the environmental review and permitting processes. The plan will act as a roadmap for agencies to digitize permit applications, remove barriers to reviews, and improve communication and collaboration.

Permitting Technology Modernization

Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century calls on executive departments and agencies to utilize technology to evaluate environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects.

Specifically, it requires that executive departments and agencies to:

- Eliminate the use of paper-based applications and review processes.
- Accelerate the processing timeline of initiatives, without impacting the accuracy of the review.
- Reducing the length of documents.
- Reduce duplicative submissions.
- Increase interagency collaboration for permits pertaining to the same projects.
- Improve the predictability of permitting schedules.
- Ensure agency legal departments have the support, funding, and technology to provide efficient and transparent response to challenged permits.
- Streamline the overall environmental review and permitting process at the federal level, with the goal of including state, local, and tribal governments in the future.

Permitting Technology Action Plan

The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) have been tasked with creating a Permitting Technology Action Plan to accomplish these requirements. The plan is in progress, and will include:

- Data and technology standards for permit applications and reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
- Functional requirements for the agency permitting software, esp. on the case management systems, automation of low-level reviews, data-driven document structure, and data collection/reporting.
- Steps to creating inter-agency collaboration with reviews that will include interoperable platforms, tools, and capabilities.
- Inter-agency governance structure.

What Does This Mean for Government?

Federal agencies will face new mandates to:

- Make maximum use of technology in environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects.
- Eliminate paper-based processes, reduce duplicative data submissions, improve interagency coordination, and increase transparency and predictability.
- Within **90 days** of the Action Plan's issuance, agencies must adopt and begin implementing the data & technology standards and functional requirements within certain timelines for agencies covered under specific statutory provisions.

The EO also signals a shift in federal strategy: Permitting processes are no longer optional, it is considered essential to Federal efficiency and customer experience.

Expect the CEQ and NEDC to issue a Permitting Technology Action Plan.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

For contractors, integrators, and developers involved in infrastructure and environmental review projects, this Memo is a green light to move forward with relying on technology whenever possible to improve efficiency and accelerate timelines.

Key takeaways for vendors:

- Align product features with minimum functional requirements
- Focus on interoperability & integration
- Emphasize transparency, predictability, and timeline management in marketing & product design

These requirements create a strong demand signal from the government side for software/tools/platforms that help agencies meet new standards, enable digital workflows, and ensure interoperability.

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