

PERMITTING DASHBOARD

GLOSSARY OF TERMS [www.permits.performance.gov](http://www.permits.performance.gov/)

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

V2.0

# **Overview of Permitting Dashboard**

The Permitting Dashboard is an online tool for Federal agencies, project developers and interested members of the public to track the Federal government’s permitting and review process for large or complex infrastructure projects. Federal permits and reviews safeguard such irreplaceable resources as historic properties, Native American cultural sites, endangered species, and clean water, and ensure that projects do not interfere with national defense activities, air or water vessel navigation, or international relations objectives. Specific project information, to the extent applicable, will be visible to the public via [www.permits.performance.gov.](http://www.permits.performance.gov/) This information is self‐reported by key individuals at the project’s lead and cooperating agencies and is continually updated to reflect the evolving nature of the project information. Note that not all fields will display for all projects, if that information was not applicable to the projects or otherwise not provided by the project lead agency.

# **Purpose**

The Glossary defines terms used throughout the Permitting Dashboard website; and especially fields that can be found within individual [project pages](https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects) visible on the Dashboard. Many of these terms are also useful for the [Project Data downloads](https://cms.permits.performance.gov/permitting-projects-data-export.csv). This document is intended for viewers and consumers of the public-facing Permitting Dashboard.

**Glossary terms (Alphabetical)**

| **Term** | **Definition** |
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| **Action** | Also known as a Permitting Action or Authorization. A general term that refers to all environmental review or authorization decisions associated with a project. Each action will have multiple underlying **milestones**.  A list of all possible actions may be found in the [Federal Environmental](https://www.permits.performance.gov/tools/federal-environmental-review-and-authorization-inventory) [Review and Authorization Inventory](https://www.permits.performance.gov/tools/federal-environmental-review-and-authorization-inventory). |
| **Action Status** | A designation of the stage of an **action**. An action can be marked as either “Cancelled,” “Completed,” “In Progress,” “Paused,” or “Planned” on the Permitting Dashboard. |
| **Appendix B Dependency** | An Appendix B dependency describes a milestone date on the Permitting Dashboard that is contingent on the completion of another Appendix B milestone found in the permitting timetable and is linked to said milestone on the permitting timetable. Appendix B milestones are found in the most current version of Appendix B of the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf). |
| **Bureau / Mode** | The sub-office, bureau, mode, or department with principal responsibility for a project, within the **lead agency**. |

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Cooperating Agency (FAST-41)** | A “cooperating agency” under FAST-41 is any agency with  (A) jurisdiction under federal law; or (B) special expertise as described in 40 CFR Section 1501.6. Under FAST-41, the universe of cooperating agencies is the same as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with respect to Federal agencies (those with jurisdiction or special expertise), but only includes states that choose to participate in the FAST-41 process, which would result in the requirements under FAST-41 applying to the state or an authorization issued by the state.  See the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf) for more information. |
| **Cooperating Agency (NEPA)** | The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations define “cooperating agency” as “any federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal.” The NEPA regulations further provide that a state or local agency or tribe may be a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.”  See the CEQ Regulations Implementing NEPA, [40 CFR 1508.5](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=a16db48a93ca42d17c3908f0d90dfd48&amp;mc=true&amp;node=se40.33.1508_15&amp;rgn=div8) for more information. |
| **Dependency** | A dependency, also known as an **Appendix B dependency**, describes a milestone date on the Permitting Dashboard that is contingent on the completion of another Appendix B milestone found in the permitting timetable and is linked to said milestone on the permitting timetable. Appendix B milestones are found in the most current version of Appendix B of the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf).  See also: **Appendix B Dependency** |
| **Environmental and Community Outcomes** | Environmental and community outcomes are qualitative and quantitative descriptions of how a project’s projected effects change over time and the community-based processes and mitigation measures developed to address those effects. |
| **FAST-41 Covered Project** | Projects identified as covered projects under Title 41 of the [Fixing](http://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr22/BILLS-114hr22enr.pdf) [America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act](http://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr22/BILLS-114hr22enr.pdf).  An economically significant infrastructure project that is subject to NEPA and has a total investment over $200 million. FAST-41 defines a covered project as “any activity in the United States that requires authorization or environmental review by a federal agency involving construction of infrastructure for renewable or conventional energy production, electricity transmission, surface transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, water resources projects, broadband, pipelines, or manufacturing.”  See the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf) for more information. |

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Lead Agency** | The agency with principal responsibility for an environmental review of a covered project under NEPA and parts 1500 through 1508 of Title 40 CFR. FAST-41 expands the term to include the lead agency for any environmental review, including environmental assessments.  See the FAST-41 Implementation Guidance for more information. |
| **Lead Agency Point of Contact (POC)** | An individual within the **lead agency** responsible for ensuring project information is accurate. The POC is also responsible for coordinating with other agency contacts on specific activities*. This is an individual,* not an office, bureau, group, or agency. |
| **Location** | The physical location of the project. Minimum information required is the city, state, and zip code or latitude and longitude. Countymay be added where useful.  See also: **Primary Location**, **Multiple Locations** |
| **Major Infrastructure Project** | Major infrastructure projects are defined under Executive Order (E.O.) 13807, Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects.  A major infrastructure project is an infrastructure project for which multiple authorizations by Federal agencies will be required to proceed with construction, the lead Federal agency has determined that it will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) under NEPA, and the project sponsor has identified the reasonable availability of funds sufficient to complete the project.  See [E.O. 13807](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-establishing-discipline-accountability-environmental-review-permitting-process-infrastructure/) for more information. |
| **Milestones** | **Actions** will always have multiple underlying milestones. A milestone is a significant event that is tracked by date for a particular environmental review or authorization decision.  For a full description of the action and milestone breakdown, please refer to Appendix B of the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance.](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf) |
| **Multiple Locations** | Projects may span multiple locations, street addresses, latitude and longitude locations, or multiple jurisdictions. When there are multiple locations, additional data points may be provided.  Note that only the **primary location** will show up on the project page’s map. |
| **Optional Milestones** | **Actions** will always have multiple underlying **milestones**. An optional milestone allows the agency to track additional milestones that are not required by the most current version of Appendix B of the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf) but are important to the environmental review and authorization decision process. |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Participating Agency**  **(FAST-41)** | FAST-41 defines participating agency as an agency participating in an environmental review or authorization for a covered project in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 4370m-2.  See the [FAST-41 Implementation Guidance](https://www.permits.performance.gov/sites/permits.performance.gov/files/docs/Official%20Signed%20FAST-41%20Guidance%20M-17-14%202017-01-13.pdf) for more information. |
| **Participating Agency (SAFETEA-LU)** | The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), under Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) section 6002 (23 U.S.C. 139), defines participating agencies as agencies with “an interest” in the project that have been invited to participate in the environmental review process by the **lead agency**.  See the SAFETEA-LU Act, [23 U.S.C. 139](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/SAFETEA-LU_0.pdf) for more information. |
| **Permitting Timetable** | An environmental review and authorization decision schedule for a project that identifies **milestones** – including intermediate and final completion dates for actions by an agency on any Federal environmental review or authorization decision required for a project – that is prepared by the **lead agency** in consultation with all **cooperating** and **participating agencies.** |
| **Primary Location** | The main address for the project. If **multiple locations** are added, the primary location will be the only one to appear on the project page’s map.  See also: **Multiple Locations** |
| **Project Category** | A project can fall under one of the following categories:   * FAST-41 Covered Projects * DOT Projects * Other Tracked Projects (projects that may need to be tracked but do not fall into other categories) |
| **Project Description** | This is a succinct, plain language summary of the project. May also contain additional useful information for the public. |
| **Project Status** | The designation of the current stage of a project. A project can be marked as either “Cancelled,” “Completed,” “In Progress,” “Paused,” or “Planned” on the Permitting Dashboard. |
| **Project Sponsor** | The project sponsor is an entity, including private, public, or public- private entities, seeking authorization for a covered project. |
| **Project Title/Name** | A project title is the common name of a project entered into the Permitting Dashboard. |
| **Project Website** | A publicly accessible website or webpage that contains information regarding the overall project. |

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Reason for Pause** | This describes the reason(s) provided by an agency for a project or action to be placed in “Paused” status.  Acceptable reasons that a project or action may be “Paused” include:   * Awaiting state government action * Awaiting local government action * Awaiting tribal government action * Project sponsor factors * Natural disasters |
| **Sector** | All projects on the Permitting Dashboard will fall within *one* of the following sectors:   * Water Resources * Renewable Energy Production * Conventional Energy Production * Electricity Transmission * Aviation * Ports and Waterways * Broadband * Surface Transportation * Manufacturing * Pipelines |
| **Target Completion Date** | The target completion date for each **milestone** is established in consultation between **lead agencies** and **cooperating** and **participating agencies**. |
| **Total Estimated Project Cost** | To qualify as a **FAST-41 covered project** under the objective standard in the covered project definition ([see 42 U.S.C. § 4370m(6)(A)(i)(II)](http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid%3AUSC-prelim-title42-section4370m&amp;num=0&amp;edition=prelim)), the project must be likely to require a total investment of more than $200 million.  See the FAST-41 Implementation Guidance, Section 3.4, for more information.  This information may not be displayed to the public. |
| **Triggering Milestone** | The **milestone** within an **action**, which once marked as “Complete,” indicates that the action is “In Progress.”  For example, when the “Complete Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)/Application Received” milestone is marked as “Complete” for the “Section 404 Clean Water Act” action, the action must be marked “In Progress.” |