



Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council adds New Mining Sector

Washington, DC – Today, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) voted to add non-energy mining as a new covered infrastructure sector to increase access to a domestic source of minerals that are critical to the nation’s economy and security.

“Today’s action by the Permitting Council furthers the President’s commitment to demystify and standardize an overly-complicated federal decision making process. Citizens shouldn’t have to hire a consultant, or have a PhD in science to understand how a project may affect their communities. This step will provide unprecedented transparency, predictability and accountability to the public, all while ensuring governors, mayors, local communities, tribes and the private sector always have a reliable Federal partner in Washington D.C.,” said Alexander H. Herrgott, Executive Director, Permitting Council.

Minerals and metals are integral to many infrastructure projects and play a vital role in reducing our reliance on foreign sources of minerals for national and economic security, including expansion of U.S. production of renewable energy in wind turbines, solar panels and energy storage batteries. The development of non-energy mining operations routinely involves construction of a variety of infrastructure from buildings, roads and pipelines to electricity generation and wastewater treatment facilities. In 2015, with overwhelmingly bipartisan agreement, Congress included energy related mining under FAST-41, including the extraction of coal, oil shale, oil, gas, and uranium. The new non-energy mining sector will allow the Permitting Council to add mining projects for non-energy, saleable and critical minerals.

FAST-41 does not supersede, amend, or modify any Federal statute, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), nor does it create a presumption that a covered project will be approved or favorably reviewed by any agency. FAST-41 is a voluntary process; project sponsors must opt-in and meet the requirements for inclusion. For more information, please visit <https://www.permits.performance.gov/about/news/new-sectors-fast-41>.