

[View this email in your browser](#)



Greetings from the Executive Director



**Christine Harada,
Executive Director**



Office of the Executive Director

On behalf of the Permitting Council, I hope you have had a wonderful month of July and are looking forward to a great August. It may be summertime, but the hard work continues for our busy council, and there is lots to share as we push forward to usher in the infrastructure decade. From the recent completion of the Ten West Link Transmission Line project to upcoming submissions of agency Permitting Action Plans, we are moving full speed ahead to accomplish the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I am excited about the work we are accomplishing together.

I hope that you enjoy this month's newsletter and I look forward to working with you to continue #BuildingBackBetter in the days to come.

Christine Harada, Executive Director



Agency Permitting Action Plans Due August 9, 2022

Our work to realize the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and President Biden's Permitting Action Plan is in high gear, and there is an important milestone just around the corner. Agencies with environmental review and permitting responsibilities are required to complete initial plans for the key strategies, processes, and measures they will use to ensure that the Federal environmental reviews and permitting processes are effective, efficient, and transparent by August 9th. If you have any questions about the process, please contact fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov.

FAST-41 Initiation Notice (FIN)

The release of the Permitting Action Plan has spread the word about the Permitting Council. We are pleased to share that we have seen an increase in FIN submissions over the past few months.

The Permitting Council Executive Director is required to post projects to the Permitting Dashboard no later than 14 days after receipt of a complete FIN, unless it is determined that the project cannot be covered under FAST-41.

In order to allow sufficient time for the Office of the Executive Director (OED) to post the required project entry to the Dashboard, we are asking facilitating agencies (or lead agencies, as appropriate) to make its determination about a project's FAST-41 eligibility as soon as possible after receipt of the FIN-- preferably within 7 days, although FAST-41 doesn't specify a date by which the agency must notify the Executive Director.

The facilitating or lead agency should notify the Executive Director of its decision by email. We recognize these timeframes can be tight and are happy to informally reach out to your teams midway through the FIN determination process for a heads up on the status of your agency's review of the FIN.

News from Council Member Agencies



Ten West Link Transmission Line Project Approved

We are excited to join the U.S. Department of the Interior in announcing approval for construction of the Ten West Link Transmission Line project, which will facilitate increased renewable energy development and delivery in Arizona and California. The project represents another significant milestone in Federal efforts to lower consumers' energy costs and modernize America's power infrastructure in the West by permitting at least 25 gigawatts of solar, wind and geothermal production on public lands by 2025.

The Ten West Link route traverses a region with some of the highest potential for utility-scale solar photovoltaic energy development in the nation. The project will provide critical transmission infrastructure to support the development of future utility-scale solar energy resources and will boost the reliability of the bulk power system for millions of customers in Central Arizona and Southern California.

"Approving this new transmission line on our public lands will accelerate our nation's transition to a clean energy economy by unlocking renewable resources, creating jobs, lowering costs, and boosting local economies," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "Through robust engagement with states, cities and Tribes, the Interior Department is committed to diversifying the nation's renewable energy portfolio while at the same time combatting climate change and investing in communities."

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Notice to Proceed authorizes Delaney Colorado River Transmission, LLC, to begin construction of the 125-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line that will connect existing substations near Tonopah, Arizona and Blythe, California.

"BLM Arizona worked closely with a variety of stakeholders and carefully considered their input in order to develop the best possible route," said BLM Arizona State Director Ray Suazo. "Through this close collaboration, we developed a route that will help meet our region's energy needs while avoiding impacts to military readiness and operations, local communities, popular recreation areas, the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, and Tribal lands."

Learn more about the Ten West Link Transmission Line project [here](#).



BOEM Seeks Comments on Draft Fisheries Mitigation Guidance, Announces Public Hearings

On June 23, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a draft fisheries mitigation guidance. Renewable energy lessees are required by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to submit information on potential impacts of their projects on commercial fishing. They must also provide mitigation measures for avoiding, minimizing, reducing, eliminating, and monitoring environmental impacts. The purpose of BOEM's draft guidance is to outline a recommended approach for developing mitigation measures, including but not limited to safety measures, compensation, monitoring, and the duration of the mitigation period. BOEM is soliciting comments and feedback from the public on the draft.

The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy will hold a virtual small business roundtable to discuss the draft document at a date to be determined. Interested parties may contact Prianka Sharma by email at prianka.sharma@sba.gov to be added to the roundtable invitation list.

Written comments are due by August 22, 2022.

Learn more [here](#).

BOEM Draft EIS

BOEM issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on July 15, 2022. The NY Bight PEIS will analyze regionally the affected environment and environmental consequences of development in the NY Bight lease areas. Additionally, the PEIS will identify, analyze, and adopt, if appropriate, programmatic avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures that could be applied across the six NY Bight lease areas. BOEM's goal is to develop a PEIS that will allow the agency to accelerate the NEPA review required at the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) stage by tiering to this PEIS. When finalized, this PEIS itself will not approve any activities.

During the 30-day scoping period, BOEM is holding three virtual public scoping meetings to inform the public and other interested parties about the NY Bight PEIS, receive oral testimony, and answer questions related to the environmental review process.

The dates for the scoping meetings are as follows:

- July 28, 2022, 5 PM EST
- August 2, 2022, 5 PM EST
- August 4, 2022, 1 PM EST

More information on the NY Bight PEIS can be found [here](#).

SelectUSA Investment Summit



The Permitting Council Executive Director was pleased to participate in this year's SelectUSA Investment Summit. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, SelectUSA is a whole-of-government initiative focused on attracting and retaining investment in the United States and serves as the primary liaison between foreign investors and American markets. The Summit is one of the highest profile events in the U.S. dedicated to promoting foreign direct investment (FDI). Since its inception, SelectUSA has facilitated over \$105 billion in client-verified investment and the summit has supported more than 138,000 jobs across the U.S. and its territories.

More than 3,600 participants attended this year's summit, including almost 2,000 international delegates from over 70 foreign markets and representatives from 51 U.S. states and territories. Public and private sector leaders addressed the crowd, including U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and other Biden-Harris Administration Cabinet Members, and Senior White House officials such as Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu, and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese, who spoke to the importance of smart permitting in his remarks.



Executive Director Harada represented the Permitting Council to highlight the benefits of working with our agency to both foreign and domestic attendees. She participated in two summit events. Director Harada moderated a plenary panel with Governors Eric Holcomb (IN), Lemanu P.S. Mauga (AS), Phil Murphy (NJ), and Pedro Pierluisi (PR), titled *Electric Vehicles to Ports: Infrastructure Investments in Rural and Urban Communities*. She also hosted a panel titled *The Biden-Harris Permitting Action Plan: Being Part of the Infrastructure Decade*. Director Harada participated as a panelist with U.S. Department of Labor Deputy Secretary, Julie Su, and Director of Global Infrastructure for IFM Investors, Tom Osborne. The panel was moderated by Tom Curtin, Director of the National Governors Association Infrastructure Program in the Center for Best Practices.

After learning more about how the Permitting Council provides a measure of predictability that reduces regulatory risk and facilitates the kind of infrastructure investment needed to maintain U.S. global competitiveness, state and territorial governments, as well as private sector companies seeking to invest in the United States, expressed tremendous interest in our work. We are thankful to SelectUSA and the U.S. Department of Commerce for the opportunity to participate in this year's summit. It was the Permitting Council's first time engaging with SelectUSA and we look forward to participating in the future.

VerdeXchange Conference



Photo courtesy of the VerdeXchange Conference

Permitting Council Executive Director Christine Harada joined government and industry leaders at the VerdeXchange conference in June, engaging on how to optimize clean energy and decarbonization solutions.

Global market leaders gathered at the L.A. based conference to examine how cities, states, and regions, in collaboration with public and private partners and community stakeholders, could leverage the historic investment in U.S. infrastructure funding now flowing to localities, to optimize economic recovery, maximize transformational climate infrastructure investments, and accelerate growth of the global clean energy economy.

Siemens “Women Shaping the Digital Enterprise”



Executive Director Christine Harada served as the keynote speaker at the *Siemens Women Shaping the Digital Enterprise* event in Washington, D.C. in June.

Director Harada gave remarks titled *Sustainability and Building Back Better* to an audience of leading female industry experts and thought leaders. In addition to promoting the work being done to revolutionize American infrastructure, the Executive Director also had the opportunity to speak about her science and engineering focused career and the future for women in the STEM workplace.

Bipartisan Policy Council



The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National League of Cities (NLC) recently held an event titled *Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Improving Permitting with the Permitting Council*. The event was held in Washington, D.C. on July 13th and Director Christine Harada had the opportunity to address the audience and give insight into the work being done by the Permitting Council to make the permitting process more collaborative, better coordinated and more transparent.

This is the third event in a series hosted by the three sponsoring organizers called *Overcoming Challenges and Seizing Opportunities: Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*. Each event is focused on a specific infrastructure sector and anchored by a senior Administration official. If you are interested in watching the BPC segment, please click [here](#).

The Permitting Council in the News



- **Bloomberg Law-** *White House Environmental Permit Helper Sees Applications Rise:* Reporter Stephen Lee covers the recent rise in FAST-41 applications for Bloomberg Law.
- **Route Fifty-** *A Newly Empowered Federal Agency is Trying to Speed up Megaproject Permitting:* Reporter Daniel C. Vock profiles the work of the Permitting Council for Route Fifty.

*Article links below

Thank you for checking out this month's Permitting Council newsletter. Keep up with everything related to infrastructure projects covered by FAST-41 by following the Permitting Council on LinkedIn and Twitter (links below).

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@fpisc.gov with newsletter submissions (maximum 400 words).

- **Bloomberg Law** [Article](#)
- **Route Fifty** [Article](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
Please contact media@fpisc.gov.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Permitting Council · 1800 M St NW · Washington, DC 20036-5802 · USA

