



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY - 1 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

This is a Second Addendum to the April 16, 2025, Dear Tribal Leader Letter. The Department of the Interior (Department) requests that Indian Affairs include an additional topic in its upcoming Tribal Consultations related to EO 14210 concerning the Department's emergency permitting procedures, announced on April 23, 2025, in response to the National Energy Emergency declared by President Donald J. Trump.

The declaration of a National Energy Emergency recognizes that current delays in energy project approvals pose significant risks to the nation's economic stability, national security, and foreign policy interests. In response, the Department will utilize emergency authorities under existing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The procedures outlined below will significantly enable faster permitting timelines—reducing processes that typically take several months or years to just weeks.

- **National Environmental Policy Act:** The Department will adopt an alternative National Environmental Policy Act compliance process to allow for more concise documents and a compressed timeline.
 - Projects analyzed in an environmental assessment, normally taking up to 1 year, will be reviewed within approximately 14 days.
 - Projects requiring a full environmental impact statement, typically a 2-year process, will be reviewed in roughly 28 days.
- **Endangered Species Act:** An expedited Section 7 consultation process will be implemented, which involves the appropriate bureau notifying the Fish and Wildlife Service that it is using emergency consultation procedures. Following such notification, the appropriate bureau can then proceed with deciding whether to approve the action.
- **National Historic Preservation Act:** Bureaus will follow alternative procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for proposed undertakings responding to the energy emergency, which include notifying the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties likely to be affected by a proposed undertaking and allowing them to comment within seven days of the notification. Following that notification and comment period, the appropriate bureau will consider any comments received and decide whether to approve the proposed undertaking.

In light of these accelerated processes, the Department is seeking responsive Tribal leader feedback. Time will be set aside during each of these previously scheduled consultation sessions to receive feedback related to this topic. Additionally, you may submit written comments in the same manner, either by email to consultation@bia.gov, or by mail to the Department of the Interior, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, 1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 229, Albuquerque, NM 87104, by 11:59 pm ET on Monday, July 7, 2025.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Davis
Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior
Exercising the delegated authority of the
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs