



Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
1800 M Street, NW, Suite 6006 | Washington, D.C. 20036

May 2, 2023

VIA EMAIL

SUBJECT: Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council Office of the Executive Director Hosting Tribal Consultation on the Draft Tribal Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF) Application

Dear Tribal Leaders,

On November 30, 2022, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) Office of the Executive Director (OED) announced an initial allocation of \$5 million to be made available to Federally recognized Tribes to enhance Tribal engagement in the permitting review and authorization process for FAST-41 covered projects.¹ The \$5 million is an initial investment from funds appropriated to the FAST-41 Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF) in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Following the funding announcement, the Permitting Council OED hosted three opportunities for a virtual consultation with Tribal leaders and their designees in February 2023. The goal of the February 2023 consultations was for the Permitting Council OED to get feedback from Tribes about the types of resources Tribes need to meaningfully participate in the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 infrastructure projects, and to explore what mechanisms Tribes preferred for the funding distribution. The Permitting Council OED has been working diligently to draft the Tribal ERIF application and incorporate Tribal feedback from the February 2023 consultations to the greatest extent possible.

The Permitting Council OED is excited to announce the availability of the draft Tribal ERIF application for Tribal consideration. **The Executive Director cordially invites Tribal leaders and their designees to review and provide comment and attend a Tribal consultation on the draft Tribal ERIF application attached.** The Permitting Council OED believes government-to-government consultation is a critical step in creating a funding opportunity that meets the needs of Tribes and looks forward to receiving further input from Tribes on the draft Tribal ERIF application before finalizing the funding opportunity.

Attached to this letter you will find 1) the draft Tribal ERIF Application; 2) the consultation framing paper; and 3) summary report from the February 2023 consultation.

¹ 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(d)(3).



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Registration

The consultation will be held virtually on the date below. Registration is required to participate in the consultation.

- July 10, 2023 from 3:00-4:30 pm ET
 - Click [here](#) to register

Written Comment

The Permitting Council Executive Director encourages Tribal leaders or their designees to submit written comments to fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov by July 17, 2023. Please let us know if you would like to request an extension.

Questions

Please contact PoQueen Rivera, Director of Tribal Affairs, for the Permitting Council at poqueen.rivera@fpisc.gov if you have any questions.

Building the Nation-to-Nation relationship is a priority for the Permitting Council. On behalf of the Permitting Council, we look forward to consulting with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Christine Harada
Executive Director
Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council

Attachments:

1. Draft Tribal ERIF Application
2. Consultation Framing Paper
3. Summary Report from the February 2023 Consultation