



The Promoting Efficient and Engaged Reviews (PEER) Act *Improving our nation's permitting processes for a cleaner and healthier future*

Congress has enacted a once-in-a-generation investment to rebuild our nation's infrastructure and address the urgent threat of climate change, creating good-paying jobs, reducing harmful pollution, and lowering costs for the American people as a result. To reap the full benefits of these historic investments, Congress must also make thoughtful reforms to our nation's environmental review and permitting processes that advance clean energy deployment, support community engagement, and protect our environment.

Advancing Projects and Reviews to Address Climate Change

- Implements a two-year environmental review process timeline for projects that address climate change or its impacts and designates a lead agency for each project.
- Makes it easier to build renewable energy and other zero-emission technologies on "brownfield sites."
- Reaffirms that environmental reviews must consider cumulative and indirect environmental effects, such as climate change.

Accelerating Transmission Deployment for Clean Energy

- Accelerates the building of transmission lines, which are necessary to connect renewables to the grid, by incorporating the CHARGE Act and SITE Act, which together streamline transmission siting, drive interregional transmission planning, and allocate transmission costs to all who benefit from new transmission.
- Supports building large interstate and offshore wind transmission lines by facilitating Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval of a developer's cost recovery for such projects.
- Removes barriers to placing transmission lines and renewable energy projects on existing highway rights-of-way.



Supporting Meaningful, Early Community Engagement

- Helps Federal agencies engage with communities, especially those with environmental justice concerns by: establishing EPA grants to States, Tribal, and local governments and community-based organizations to facilitate engagement in the NEPA process; and, creating senior Community Engagement Officer and Tribal Engagement Officer roles at each agency.
- Ensures that impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns are considered in permitting decisions by requiring "community impact reports" as part of environmental reviews.
- Ensures that communities gain from local projects through "community benefits agreements," under which developers offset project impacts or address legacy harms.
- Allows agencies to consider or require a community benefits agreement as part of a NEPA review.

Enhancing Efficiency, Certainty, and Predictability Without Undermining Environmental Laws

- Modernizes Federal agency environmental reviews and enhances transparency through greater use of digital tools and technologies, including linked environmental data systems.
- Cuts duplicative reviews by expanding the use of "programmatic environmental reviews," which allow agencies to efficiently evaluate the effects of multiple projects in an area or of the same type.
- Addresses Federal agency resource challenges and workforce gaps through new hiring authorities, user fees, and a university permitting workforce program to provide grants for career training.
- Enhances coordination between Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners, and allows Federal agencies to rely on reviews conducted by State or Tribal agencies.
- Provides certainty on federal permits for semiconductor projects with CHIPS and Science Act funding.
- Reduces ligation risk by cutting the statute of limitations for litigation on NEPA from six years to three and directing litigation to the Federal Appeals Courts.