

The Broad Benefits of Updated Permitting Policies



Advancing U.S. Priorities

Policymakers want to accelerate reductions in GHG emissions; make the nation's energy delivery system more resilient and reliable; strengthen supply chains; and enhance U.S. competitiveness.

Modernizing the policies used to review and approve new energy production, energy infrastructure, and manufacturing projects is a valuable and under-recognized tool to advance these national priorities.

Permitting reform has attracted bipartisan support over several decades. The permitting process for some potential and emerging lower-emissions technologies is continuing to evolve and will need attention.

Lower Emissions Sources and Technologies

To support the clean energy transition and help accelerate reductions in GHG emissions, our nation's permitting program needs to enable access to a broad range of sources and technologies, from natural gas and renewables to hydrogen; carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS); advanced nuclear; combined heat and power (CHP); and more. Chemistry companies are among the leaders and participants in exploring the development and use of lower-emissions technologies.

New Infrastructure

The U.S. needs expanded infrastructure for natural gas; high-capacity renewable electricity generation, transmission, and distribution; CO₂ pipelines and other infrastructure for CCUS and direct air capture; and a distribution network to connect industrial users with hydrogen suppliers and to link carbon capture facilities with use markets or sequestration sites.

Manufacturing and Supply Chains

Chemical manufacturing and its supply chains produce essential "inputs" for solutions such as semiconductors, electric vehicles (EVs), solar and wind power, advanced batteries, high-performance building solutions, lightweight vehicle parts, and military applications. Natural gas provides much of the energy used to run complex chemical operations. For many companies, access to affordable, industrial-scale supplies of natural gas is critical to the competitiveness of U.S. operations.

Key Principles for Permitting Reform

	ACTIONS
STREAMLINING	Simplify and rationalize the project permit application, review, and appeals process.
ACCOUNTABILITY	Hold agencies accountable for reasonable, timely actions on permit applications and reviews.
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION	Unlock the energy and climate resources provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and other authorities.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	Promote meaningful, good-faith public participation in the permitting process by a diverse set of stakeholders.

Back to Basics

The permitting process is fundamentally flawed and needs to be updated and improved, with the aim of expediting development. Policies should encourage the building and development of energy and manufacturing infrastructure and technologies of all kinds. Policymakers should ensure effective coordination across government agencies and programs. Applicants would continue to meet all federal, state, environmental and safety requirements in the relevant statutes. Public and stakeholder participation is important and should reflect "best practices."