



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Katherine R. Scarlett
Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Establishment of Permitting Innovation Center

On April 15, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM) on Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century. This memorandum directed CEQ to establish and lead an interagency Permitting Innovation Center that will design and test prototype tools that could be implemented pursuant to the Permitting Technology Action Plan for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews and other environmental permits and authorizations. The work of the Permitting Innovation Center will support the ability for agencies to make maximum use of technology in environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects of all kinds.

There is established within CEQ a Permitting Innovation Center that will coordinate implementation of the PM, develop the Permitting Technology Action Plan (PTAP) and accompanying initial data and technology standard for permit applications and NEPA, and oversee agency implementation of the PTAP. The Permitting Innovation Center will work with the General Services Administration, Technology Transformation Service and other Federal agencies to design and test prototype software systems, including for case management systems, application submission and tracking portals, automation of application and review processes, data exchange between agency systems, and acceleration of complex reviews. The Permitting Innovation Center will incubate and share “best in class” tools and success stories and advise agencies on adoption of prototypes and development of new or existing tools.

In the next 30 days, CEQ, through the Permitting Innovation Center, will:

- Coordinate with relevant agencies on the development of the Permitting Technology Action Plan
- Develop an initial NEPA and permitting data and technology standard
- Issue the Permitting Technology Action Plan

The Permitting Innovation Center will be led and staffed by CEQ.

We look forward to continued partnership with your agencies on these implementation efforts.

For questions, contact Michael Drummond, Director for Permitting and Innovation, at Michael.R.Drummond@ceq.eop.gov.