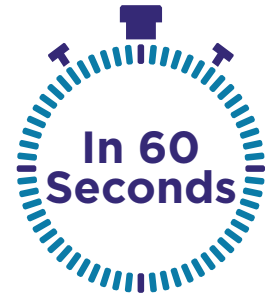


IndependentWomen® Permitting Reform



What's at Stake

With increased electricity demand and the need for reliable domestic energy and critical minerals, the U.S. must build and approve more energy infrastructure projects. This includes more baseload power plants (natural gas, nuclear, and coal), pipelines, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals. Due to bureaucratic red tape and frivolous lawsuits, it often takes **seven to ten years** to complete environmental reviews before construction begins.

Reforming and modernizing the permitting process will spur economic growth and make us energy-independent without despoiling the environment.

Rising electricity demand requires more reliable energy facilities

- New coal, natural gas, and nuclear plants are essential to meet growing electricity demand and stave off a forecasted **19%** increase in utility bills.
- **Nearly 80%** of registered voters want affordable, reliable energy.

U.S. falling behind on key infrastructure projects

- Russia and China are constructing more baseload and dispatchable power plants, putting us at an economic disadvantage.
- Bad rulemaking forced the premature closure of coal, natural gas, and nuclear power plants and the delay of new projects.

The Way Forward

Policymakers should carefully craft rules that modernize and reform the environmental review process in order to approve important energy infrastructure projects in a timely fashion. Some lawmakers have taken important steps recently:

- On Day One of his second term, President Trump issued two executive orders to speed up the permitting process: **Unleashing American Energy** and **Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential**.
- Congress has introduced proposals like the **BUILDER Act of 2023** and the **Full Responsibility and Expedited Enforcement (FREE) Act** of 2025.
- President Trump's first administration **finalized** a rule to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signed an **executive order** to speed up permitting reform in October 2024.

Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>Speeding up environmental review undermines the permitting reform process.</p>	<p>The U.S. permitting process is outdated. Environmental impact statements (EIS) run for thousands of pages and average 4.5 years to complete. These requirements can be reformed without harming the environment, as the U.S. has stringent laws protecting land, air, water, endangered species, and cultural resources.</p>
<p>Permitting reform will only benefit entrenched oil and gas interests.</p>	<p>Federal agencies study the environmental impacts of projects that require federal permits. This is applicable to oil, power, hydropower, solar, and wind projects; infrastructure projects like roads, transmission lines, and pipelines; and manufacturing facilities and data centers.</p>
<p>Modernizing permitting reform will worsen carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Approving energy projects to boost natural gas, nuclear, and geothermal will lead to fewer emissions. Natural gas is a clean-burning fuel that comprises most electricity generation in the U.S. today. Nuclear power plants produce near-zero carbon emissions on a square mile of land, while geothermal—using fracking technology—produces one-sixth of carbon emissions compared to natural gas plants.</p>