

# NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL

*An Oil and Natural Gas Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Energy*

1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3535

Phone: (202) 393-6100  
[www.npc.org](http://www.npc.org)

The National Petroleum Council (“Council”) is a federal advisory committee to the Department of Energy. Established by President Truman in 1946, the Council provides advice, information, and recommendations on matters relating to oil and natural gas in response to questions posed by the Secretary of Energy. With about 200 members appointed by the Secretary, the Council has balanced representation from oil and gas companies, electric companies and other large consumers, and non-industry or not-for-profit organizations such as academia, States, Native American Tribes, environmental and other public interest groups, and professional societies.

At the Council’s December 3, 2025 meeting, the Council approved and delivered a study to Secretary Wright on ways to streamline permitting reviews and reduce timelines without compromising environmental and natural resource protection. The study identifies ten targeted recommendations to modernize federal permitting and enable timely development of critical energy infrastructure. As summarized below, the recommendations address recurring sources of delay across federal permitting and authorization processes:

- Congress should amend NEPA to ensure agency reviews are focused on direct and reasonably foreseeable impacts within an agency’s statutory authority.
- Congress should streamline judicial review, limit vacatur as a legal remedy, and refine standing requirements for litigants.
- The Administration and Congress should limit the scope of state water quality certification review to factors directly related to water quality and strengthen the law’s one-year deadline for review.
- The Administration should expand the use of general permits and categorical exclusions for oil and gas infrastructure activities.
- Congress should extend the renewal period for USACE nationwide permits from 5 to 10 years.
- The Administration should raise cost caps and expand eligibility for FERC’s blanket certificate program.
- The Administration should ensure agencies abide by permit authorization schedules developed by FERC.
- The Administration should identify and eliminate duplicative permitting processes and NEPA procedural requirements and promote greater consistency across federal, state, and local jurisdictions.
- Congress and the Administration should streamline processes to promote development of electric power infrastructure to support the interconnected nature of U.S. energy systems and accelerate economic competitiveness and security.
- Longer term, Congress should explore and adopt a new approach to modernize infrastructure permitting such that it maximizes reliance on standardized approaches in lieu of case-specific reviews.

The full report and the December 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation, titled Bottleneck to Breakthrough, is available at <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/articles/npc-reports-7>