

Overview of Executive Order on Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure

On July 23, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order, [Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure](#), aimed at expediting the deployment of large-scale data centers and supporting infrastructure critical to artificial intelligence. The order directs federal agencies to streamline permitting and environmental review processes, prioritize strategic energy and technology projects, and make federal and military land available for development. The order revokes [Executive Order 14141](#), *Advancing United States Leadership in Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure*, issued by President Biden on January 14, 2025.

Purpose and Policy Direction: This executive order declares it is the policy of the United States to facilitate the rapid and efficient construction of AI data centers and related infrastructure by reducing federal regulatory burdens and accelerating permitting decisions.

The Administration aims to transform federally owned land into productive hubs of data and energy infrastructure to enhance U.S. technological dominance and security.

Key Definitions: The order defines terms for AI-focused infrastructure projects, including:

- **Data Center Project:** Facilities adding more than 100 megawatts (MW) of new load for AI operations (inference, training, simulation, synthetic data).
- **Covered Components:** Essential materials, products, and infrastructure for Data Center Projects, including energy systems, semiconductors, networking equipment, and data storage.
- **Covered Component Project:** Facilities that produce or house Covered Components.
- **Qualifying Project:** Data Center or Covered Component Projects meeting criteria such as \$500M+ capital investment, >100 MW load, national security importance, or designation by federal Secretaries.
- **Project Sponsor:** Lead entity providing financial or other support for a project.
- **Site Types:** Includes Superfund and Brownfield sites as defined under U.S. law.

Accelerating Federal Support and Investment: The Secretary of Commerce, with OSTP, will craft a federal strategy to back Qualifying Projects through loans, grants, tax incentives, and federal procurement or offtake agreements for key materials.

Environmental Streamlining and NEPA Reform: The order directs agencies to streamline NEPA reviews by applying existing categorical exclusions, creating new ones for routine data center activities, excluding projects with under 50% federal funding from “major federal action” status, and exempting projects with non-controlling federal support.

Permitting Dashboard and FAST-41 Authority: The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) may designate strategic data center initiatives as “transparency projects,” publish public timelines, and elevate qualifying projects to FAST-41 status for faster interagency review.

Unlocking Federal and Military Lands: The President directs Interior, Energy, and Defense to unlock federal and military lands for projects by identifying suitable sites, prioritizing Superfund and Brownfield redevelopment, and leasing military land for energy, workforce, or mission-related initiatives.

Programmatic Permitting for Biological and Water Resources: The order seeks to reduce environmental review delays by establishing 10-year ESA consultations for routine construction and directing the Army Corps to streamline Clean Water and Rivers & Harbors Act permits for data center projects.