

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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August 21, 2018

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

An efficient and timely federal permitting process is critical to modernizing our nation's infrastructure while preventing project costs from escalating. Too often, however, permit applications become bogged down in bureaucracy and tied up in red tape. In August 2017, the Administration issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13807, "Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects," to streamline environmental reviews and permitting for major infrastructure projects. The E.O. sets out specific recommendations for enhancing and modernizing the environmental review and permitting processes, including deadlines for completing authorization decisions and the establishment of a performance accountability system.

As part of the Committee's work to develop information technology reforms under the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, the Committee collaborated with GAO on a scorecard to assess agencies' efforts to implement the Act. Similarly, we are interested in how GAO may be able to work with the Committee to develop a scorecard to assess federal agencies' efforts to implement E.O. 13807 and streamline the environmental review and permitting processes for major infrastructure projects.

The Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment requests GAO examine federal efforts to streamline the federal permitting process, starting with energy infrastructure projects such as pipelines, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, and electricity transmission. Specifically, GAO's review should assess: (1) the extent to which agencies track major infrastructure permitting and compare outcomes to agency performance goals; (2) the extent to which federal agencies established processes to identify permitting timeliness and completeness; and (3) the key permitting-related indicators for monitoring agency progress.

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If you have any questions about this request, please contact Emily Wong of the Majority staff at (202) 225-5074 or emily.wong@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Chairman

Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment

cc: The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment