



# Bringing Clarity to the Federal Permitting Process for Tribal Broadband Projects through FAST-41

# Why Does FAST-41 and the Permitting Council Exist?

## Common Complaints about Federal Permitting

- The Federal permitting process is inefficient. There are so many layers and no natural coordination process for Federal agencies.
- The Federal permitting process lacks predictability which can lead to additional costs and projects not getting done on time.
- It is unclear which agencies are responsible for what components of the permitting process.
- Projects get stuck in approval processes for unknown reasons and project sponsors have limited options to escalate issues to decision makers.
- It is unclear who is the right point of contact at any given Federal agency.



# The Permitting Council



Office of Management  
and Budget



Permitting Council  
Office of the Executive Director  
(Council Chair)



Council on  
Environmental Quality



Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation



Department of Agriculture



Department of Army



Department of Commerce



Department of Defense



Department of Energy



Department of Housing and  
Urban Development



Department of Homeland  
Security



Department of the Interior



Department of Transportation



Environmental Protection  
Agency



Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Federal Energy Regulatory  
Commission

# FAST-41 Sectors

- Renewable energy production
- Conventional energy production
- Electricity transmission
- Surface transportation\*
- Aviation\*
- Ports and waterways\*
- Water resource\*
- **Broadband**
- Pipelines
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Carbon capture
- Semiconductors
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- High-performance computing and advanced computer hardware and software
- Quantum information science and technology
- Data storage and data management
- Cybersecurity
- Energy Storage



(\*) WRDA funded and DOT-led projects are excluded from FAST-41.

# Benefits of FAST-41 Coverage



**Increased predictability:** Federal agencies required to collaborate on the creation and management of the permitting timetable.



**Focused attention of agency leadership:** Drives issue resolution and helps to maintain internal accountability within the agency.



**Enhanced coordination:** Permitting timetable is a one-stop shop for project sponsors and Federal agencies to coordinate on project progress and timeline extensions.



**Increased transparency & accountability:** Permitting timetables and Federal decisions are accessible to the public. Timetable oversight from Permitting Council and annual report to Congress on compliance of agencies.



**Resources:** Funding can be transferred to Federal, state, local government agencies, and Tribes to support work related to federal environmental authorizations.



**Dispute resolution:** Clearly defined escalation procedures for resolving permitting timetable issues (roadblocks).

# Eligibility: FAST-41 Project Criteria

Category	Criteria
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subject to NEPA</li><li>• Requires investment of \$200M+</li><li>• Project not eligible for abbreviated environmental review or authorization</li></ul>
<b>Tribal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subject to NEPA</li><li>• Sponsored by Tribe &amp; located at least partially on land within their jurisdiction</li><li>• \$200M threshold does <u>not</u> apply</li></ul>
<b>Discretionary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$200M threshold does not apply</li><li>• Council determines that project is of size and complexity that would benefit from coverage</li></ul>
<b>Carbon Capture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes construction of: any facility, technology, or system that captures, utilizes, or sequesters carbon dioxide emissions, including projects for direct air capture and carbon dioxide pipelines.</li><li>• Project is covered by a programmatic plan or environmental review development for the primary purpose of facilitating development of carbon dioxide pipelines.</li><li>• No NEPA requirement.</li></ul>

# FAST-41 Covered Tribal Project

## Santa Fe Indian School Pueblo Education Network



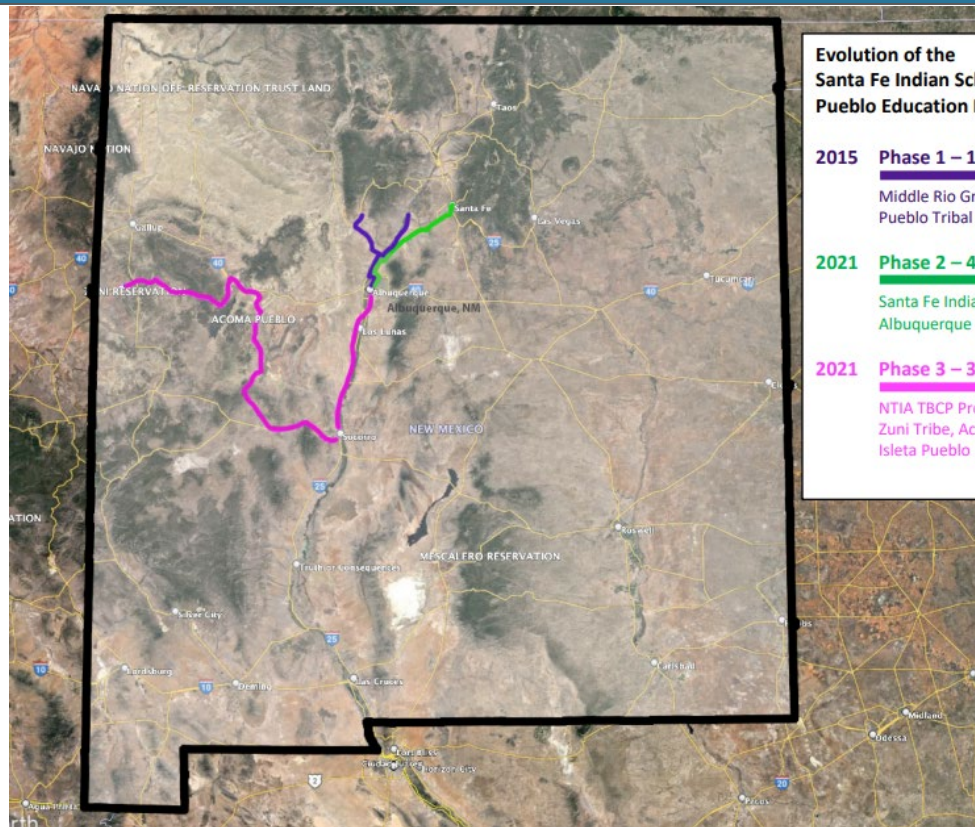
\$57 Million



300+ miles



Tribal  
Broadband  
Connectivity  
Program



### Evolution of the Santa Fe Indian School Pueblo Education Network

- 2015 Phase 1 – 120 miles**  
Middle Rio Grande & Jemez-Zia Pueblo Tribal Consortium
- 2021 Phase 2 – 42 miles**  
Santa Fe Indian School to Albuquerque
- 2021 Phase 3 – 324 miles**  
NTIA TBCP Proposal  
Zuni Tribe, Acoma Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo

# FAST-41 Tribal Project

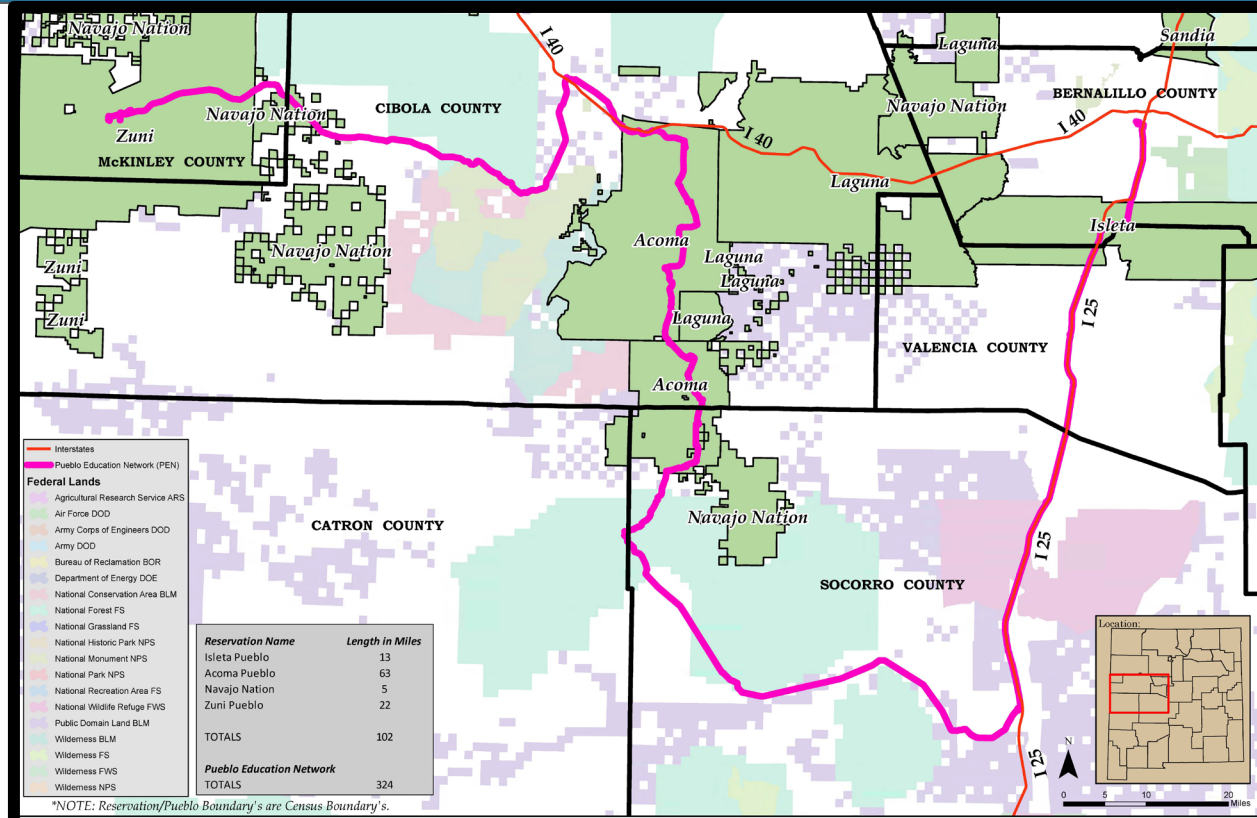
## Santa Fe Indian School Pueblo Education Network

### Tribal Partners:

Isleta Pueblo  
Acoma Pueblo  
Zuni Pueblo

Middle mile broadband infrastructure for Tribes and effectuating last-mile internet access

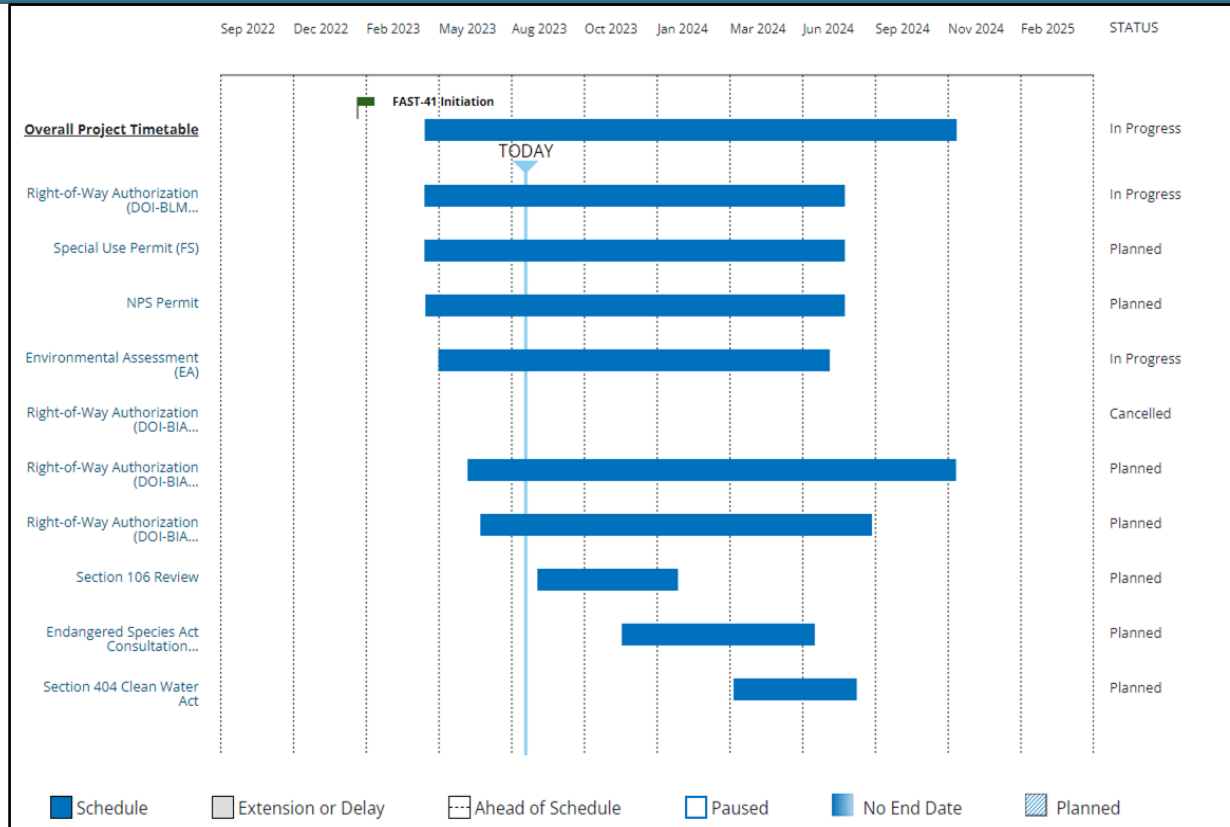
Modernizes Indian Education by creating a private education network





# FAST-41 Permitting Timetable

## Santa Fe Indian School Pueblo Education Network





# Permitting Timetable Milestones

## Action Information

For additional information, please select an Action from the Permitting Timetable above.

Action: **Environmental Assessment (EA)** Responsible Agency: **Department of Commerce**

Bureau: **National Telecommunications and Information Administration** Action Status: **In Progress**

Milestone	Original Target Date	Current Target Date	Milestone Complete
Determination to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) (Agency Action)	05/15/2023	05/15/2023	✓
Issuance of a Draft EA / Release for Public Review (Agency Action)	04/01/2024	02/14/2024	---
Issuance of a Final EA (Agency Action)	04/30/2024	04/30/2024	---
EA Process Concluded (Agency Action)	07/15/2024	07/15/2024	---

## View Action Details

### Changes to the project's environmental and community effects:

Avoidance of resources, Minimization of effects

# Contact Information

**For additional questions contact:**

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**For more information go to:**

[www.permitting.gov](http://www.permitting.gov)