

THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | Sept. 11th, 2025

Keeping corporate leaders up to date on how policy decisions in DC are impacting sustainability efforts across the country.

House Committee Begins Permitting Reform Discussion

The House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on legislation that would serve as the foundation for permitting reform. Key to the discussions is the SPEED Act, which streamlines the federal permitting process by narrowing the scope of environmental reviews under NEPA, limiting reviews to direct and foreseeable impacts, expanding categorical exclusions, and extending the validity of programmatic reviews. Overall, the bill is designed to make permitting faster and more predictable for energy, infrastructure, and development projects while curbing litigation delays.

Chairman Westerman hopes to hold a markup on this bill and others in October. Meanwhile, other House committees have moved forward or are currently considering permitting reform bills to provide a more holistic solution to the problem.

Washington, DC Update

Committees include to move forward nominees that impact sustainability issues, including the CEQ Chair, FERC Chairs, and other senior leadership in the EPA and DOE. All eyes are now on negotiations around appropriations and whether Congress will keep the government funded. Also, last week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that EPA can withdraw \$20 billion in Inflation Reduction Act climate-related grants. NGOs are likely to appeal this ruling.

Engagement Opportunities

- The EPA is inviting [public feedback](#) on a draft permit for Marquis Carbon Injection LLC to inject and store up to 1.5 million metric tons of CO₂ annually over six years in a well in Putnam County, Illinois, with monitoring requirements extending twelve years after injection ends to protect drinking water. **Public meetings are scheduled for October 15 and 29, with comments due November 3.**
- The EPA has proposed rescinding its [2009 Endangerment Finding](#), which determined that greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted from new motor vehicles endanger public health and welfare and served as the legal basis for regulating those emissions under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act. If finalized, the rule would eliminate all existing GHG emission standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines. **Comments to the EPA has been extended through September 22.**
- The Department of Energy announced that it will open up grant applications for up to \$1 billion to “advance and scale mining, processing, and manufacturing technologies across key stages of the critical minerals and materials supply chains.” **You can find the NOFOs [here](#).**

Want to Learn More?

- You can watch the committee hearing [here](#).
- You can read more about the SPEED Act [here](#).