

GQS
NEW
ENERGY
STRATEGIES

Permitting and Siting

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Substantial Need for New Energy Infrastructure

- Historical Projected Load Growth
 - Data centers
 - Electrification
 - 128 additional GW of demand by 2029/270 GW by 2035
 - Current peak demand is approximately 820 GW
- Transmission Capacity Needs to Double
 - Load growth
 - Resilience and Reliability
 - Reduce congestion
 - Access to remotely located renewable resources

Siting Electric Infrastructure

- States Primarily Responsible for Electric Infrastructure Siting
- NIMBYism is a Huge Barrier
- Federal Role for Infrastructure Siting
 - FERC has primary authority for interstate gas pipelines
 - FERC transmission backstop siting authority
 - Projects on public lands need federal agency approval
 - NEPA review required for major federal actions

Federal Permitting Reform

- Republicans and Democrats Agree Reform is Needed
- Manchin-Barrasso Bill (2024)
 - Reduce time for NEPA lawsuits
 - Expedited judicial review
 - Simplifies FERC backstop siting process
 - FERC lead agency for federal transmission siting
 - Categorical exclusions for certain actions
- House Bill (2024)
 - Projects can move forward while NEPA deficiencies are remedied
 - Limit scope of environmental reviews
 - Limit definition of major federal action

Permitting Reform Remains a Priority

- High Priority for House
- Senate Bill Requires Democrat Support
 - Can't go too far on NEPA
- Potential for Provision in Budget Reconciliation
- House Reconciliation Proposal
 - If pay more can get expedited NEPA review
 - One year for EIS/Six months for EA
 - NEPA litigation is eliminated
 - Other environmental obligations remain
- Senate Point of Order is Possible

QUESTIONS?