



MEMORANDUM

TO: IEDA Board
RE: Power Committee Report
DATE: May 15th, 2025

(DO)I Got a Plan

DOI is developing its strategic plan for 2026 to 2030. According to a leaked document, the plan includes four strategic goals for DOI during President Trump's second term: 1) restore American prosperity, 2) ensure national security through infrastructure and innovation, 3) enjoy our natural resources while ensuring they remain sound and sustainable, and 4) collaboration and coordination results in better outcomes for the nation, states, and the people. Much of the draft plan is written in bullet points and remains broad and vague, but among other things the plan calls for increasing oil and gas development, opening federal lands to development, slashing regulations, and ramping up revenues from grazing, timber, critical minerals, gravel and other non-energy resources. The plan also calls for delisting some species from ESA protections and "streamlining" NEPA. According to a timeline outlined in the plan, DOI is planning to seek input from the public, tribes, and Congress from May to July, and aims to finalize the strategic plan by October.

Hurry Up & Drill

DOI announced it will expedite environmental reviews for certain energy infrastructure projects under a new "alternative National Environmental Policy Act compliance process." The Department will fast-track environmental reviews to approve projects within 28 days, with a 10-day public comment period – cutting the process down to weeks instead of years. The expedited review process applies only to certain energy projects, such as oil and gas drilling, critical mineral and coal mining, and biofuel production, among others. Geothermal energy is also included on the list, although other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are excluded. Companies applying for permits must specifically request that

the alternative process be applied. The move draws on emergency authorities and follows several other actions by the administration to expedite energy permitting.

I Got a WAPA for You

In discussions with Scott Lund, he expressed concerns for the timing of critical projects due to the ongoing buyout/retirement program, future reduction in force plans and the overall ability to get things done. We discussed options like; contract labor, public-private partnerships and the Contributed Funds Act. Most of the hang-up on the CFA is that WAPA must be the party constructing the project. IEDA should discuss ways to help WAPA buildout without allowing for mission creep.

Potpourri

- There is a rumored hydropower Executive Order coming. Not sure if it is just tied to the Columbia River Dams and the MOU or something broader.
- There is a planned rewrite to the LNG safety standards. This may make new pipeline development easier.
- President's Budget recommends eliminating LIHEAP in 2026