

FAST-41 PERMITTING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What FAST-41 coverage means for South32's Hermosa project

FAST-41's "FAST" acronym stands for "Fixing America's Surface Transportation," the name of the omnibus bill that created the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council and Dashboard. **In order to qualify for review under the FAST-41 program, infrastructure projects must meet certain, rigorous criteria to demonstrate how they will benefit the nation.**

FAST-41 is also an important, integrated tool for the United States government's efforts to make progress on the country's decarbonization goals. It helps to address administrative delays that commonly face all major infrastructure projects in the U.S., including South32's Hermosa project, that could contribute to the U.S.'s dependence on foreign sources of critical minerals for the clean energy future.

South32's Hermosa project will be the first mining project covered by FAST-41, which will make the rigorous federal environmental review and permitting process for this project more transparent, predictable, and inclusive for all stakeholders. South32 is committed to working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, cooperating agencies, tribes, and local stakeholders in Santa Cruz County to bring this project into operation in a way that **benefits the community, minimizes impact on the environment, and creates new opportunities across the region.**

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1. Are FAST-41 projects fast-tracked through the federal permitting process without being subject to rigorous environmental review?
2. Is the federal government's environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects covered by FAST-41 easily accessible to the public?
3. Can a project covered by FAST-41 modify timeframes for NEPA and other necessary review processes in order to move the project forward?
4. Does FAST-41 reduce project engagement with Tribes and other stakeholders?

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1. FAST-41 projects do **NOT** bypass federal environmental review or cut any corners in the permitting process.
2. FAST-41 projects are **more transparent**, allowing federal agencies and other stakeholders, including the public, to track project review and permitting in real time via the Permitting Dashboard website.
3. Projects covered by FAST-41 are **more predictable**, with standardized timelines and coordination on interagency reviews. FAST-41 does not supersede, amend or modify any federal statute, including NEPA.
4. FAST-41 is designed to be **more inclusive**, coordinating engagement between the project sponsor, the public, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders and providing for issue resolution.