

# Hicks-Ray Associates



March 26, 2012

TO: WESTCAS Membership

FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray

SUBJECT: President Issues Executive Order on Infrastructure Permitting

On March 22, President Obama issued an Executive Order “Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects.” This EO establishes an aggressive time line to Federal Agencies to, “significantly reduce the aggregate time required to make decisions in the permitting and review of infrastructure projects by the Federal Government, while improving environment and community outcomes.....”

Federal Agencies participating in this process will be the Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and USEPA. The EO establishes a “Steering Committee on Federal Infrastructure Permitting and Review Process Improvement” chaired by a “Chief Performance Officer” or CPO.

A great deal of work is directed to be accomplished over the next four months including:

- April 30, participating Agencies will submit to the CPO their “Projects of National or Regional Significance” which will be published and their status tracked.
- May 31, Steering Committee shall develop and publish “a Federal Plan to significantly reduce the aggregate time required to make Federal permitting and review decisions on infrastructure projects.....”
- June 30, each participating Agency will submit to the CPO their Agency plan for accomplishing these goals.
- July 31, overall plan shall be published.
- December 31, first report on progress being made under this new Plan.

This is obviously a huge amount of work within a very compressed time period. Who knows if all of these tasks can be accomplished in just over four months? But WESTCAS members need to be aware of what could become a historic change in how infrastructure projects are permitted.

We have attached a copy of the EO for your review.

---

Fred Hicks - 703.866.4290  
P.O. Box 2115  
Springfield, VA 22152-0115  
[fred@hicks-ray.com](mailto:fred@hicks-ray.com)

Tom Ray - 254.855.0880  
P.O. Box 955  
Waco, TX 76703-0955  
[tom@hicks-ray.com](mailto:tom@hicks-ray.com)