

From: [Green, Frankie](#)
To: [Jeff Gosse](#); [Elizabeth Rigby](#); [Robert Krska](#); [Elaine Johnson](#); [Marty Tuegel](#); [Denise Baker](#); [Miller, Jessica](#); [Christine Willis](#)
Cc: [Barbara Schmidt](#); [Stefanie Stavrakas](#); [Angela Boyer](#); [Joshua Marceaux](#); [Paul Necaize](#); [Phifer, Paul](#); [spencer_simon@fws.gov](#); [Pamela Shellenberger](#); [Tiernan Lennon](#); [Lynn Gemlo](#); [Maria Boroja](#); [Steve Brockmann](#); [Bob Henszey](#); [Melissa Burns](#); [Troy Andersen](#); [Brian Croft](#); [Tiffany Heitz](#); [Ben Thatcher](#); [Craig Aubrey](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing on FAST-41 Process
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 12:27:16 PM
Attachments: [2017-07-12 Portman and Carper Invitation to Frazer.pdf](#)

Hello again everyone,

Just to follow up - yesterday Gary Frazer received the letter inviting him to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. at a hearing titled, "Cutting Through the Red Tape: Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Permitting and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council."

Our Congressional and Legislative Affairs staff spoke with committee staff yesterday, and they are primarily interested in our perspective as a coordinating agency and how the decentralized structure of FWS impacts our ability to implement FAST-41 across our "diverse regions." Chairman Portman is particularly interested in the RC Byrd Hydro Project, which spanned two FWS regions, resulting in lots of confusion and delays for the project proponents.

CLA staff is preparing the testimony that discusses our role in FAST-41 implementation, including project examples, and how FWS has worked to streamline our consultation process more generally. The DOI representatives have requested that we do not include "lessons learned" in the testimony, but save that for the Q&A session.

So, just to clarify, while the projects located in the subcommittee members home states are preferred for inclusion in the the testimony - if any of the other projects would provide good examples of our cooperation with other agencies or our transparency with information - anything that made the permitting/authorization process go smoother - then I would like to obtain summaries on those as well.

Thank you again for your help with this!
Frankie

On Wed, Jul 12, 2017 at 5:15 PM, Green, Frankie <frankie_green@fws.gov> wrote:

Hello everyone,

On July 26 the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Subcommittee, which is chaired by Rob Portman of Ohio, is holding a hearing on the FAST-41 implementation experience. They are interested in hearing the perspective of a cooperating agency on what has worked, what could be better, and what is needed to improve the permitting process so one of our senior managers (probably Gary Frazer) is going to testify.

To include in this testimony our Congressional and Legislative Affairs staff are looking for brief summaries of projects where FWS, as a cooperating agency, coordinated with other agencies to ensure fast and transparent review of the project. Also, if there are lessons that we've learned through this process (or specific projects that can provide examples of that), those would be helpful too.

In addition to Ohio, the subcommittee members hail from Delaware (Carper), Montana (Tester and Daines), Oklahoma (Lankford), North Dakota (Heitkamp), Arizona (McCain), Kentucky (Paul), and Michigan (Peters). since this hearing is focused on FAST-41 projects, these are the ones located in states represented by the subcommittee:

- Nexus Gas Transmission – OH, MI

- Ten West Link Transmission Line – AZ, CA
- TN Gas Abandonment and Capacity Restoration - KY

Other projects not listed above may also provide good examples.

By COB on Thursday, July 14, please provide brief summaries of the projects you are responsible for (particularly if you think they will inform this testimony), or let me know if the project is too premature for much discussion.

I apologize for the quick turnaround but appreciate any information you can share with me. Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Frankie

PS - Just to refresh everyone's memory, attached is the list of 18 FAST-41 projects where FWS is involved in some capacity.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 12, 2017

Via U.S. Mail and Email (Micah Chambers@ios.doi.gov)

Mr. Gary Frazer
Assistant Director, Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Frazer:

On July 26, 2017, the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations will hold a hearing examining the federal permitting process for major infrastructure projects, including the progress made by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council since it was established in Title 41 of the FAST Act in 2015 (FAST-41)¹. The hearing will begin at 2:30 p.m. in SD-342 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The Subcommittee respectfully requests that you testify at the hearing. To assist the Subcommittee's understanding of these issues, we ask that you please be prepared to address and answer questions about the federal infrastructure permitting process, Fish and Wildlife's work with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, and the reforms made in FAST-41.

You may submit a written statement to be included in its entirety in the printed hearing record. Subcommittee rules require that the written statement be received by 2:30 p.m. on July 24, 2017. Please send your written statement and a brief biography via email to the Subcommittee's clerk, Kate Kielceski, at Kate.Kielceski@hsgac.senate.gov. In addition, you may present an oral statement at the hearing. We request that any oral statement be limited in length to five minutes to allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee.

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 4370m.

Mr. Gary Frazer
July 12, 2017
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We look forward to your participation in this hearing. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Neely with the majority staff at (202) 224-3721 or John Kilvington with the minority staff at (202) 224-9505.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations



Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
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