



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information: 202-418-0500

Internet: www.fcc.gov

TTY: 888-835-5322

DA 25-1003

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FCC ANNOUNCES NEW DATES FOR VIRTUAL CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE FCC'S NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT RULES

By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announces two new dates for virtual Tribal Consultations on [potential changes](#) to the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rules.

- December 11, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET
- January 14, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

Federally-recognized Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) interested in consulting should send an email to Native@fcc.gov with a subject line indicating the date of participation, "Consultation – December 11," or "Consultation – January 14." Please note that virtual Tribal Consultations may be recorded and transcribed.

Virtual Tribal Consultations announced in Public Notice ([DA 25-821](#)) were not held due to the lapse in government funding. For current information on Tribal engagement opportunities, visit the FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy webpage at www.fcc.gov/Native.

Background: The FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) ([FCC 25-47](#)) on August 7, 2025, under WTB [Docket No. 25-217](#), to take a fresh look at the Commission's environmental rules to account for recent amendments to NEPA under the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA). In addition, in January, President Trump issued Executive Order 14154 titled "Unleashing American Energy," which called upon "all agencies [to] prioritize efficiency and certainty over any other objectives" in revising agency regulations implementing NEPA. In light of the changes to the legal landscape and consistent with the objectives of that Executive Order, the FCC seeks comment on how we should revise Commission rules to streamline the environmental review process, promote efficiency, and encourage deployment of infrastructure that results in more competition and technological innovation.

The FCC is also taking this opportunity to seek comment on whether there are parts of our environmental rules that are now unnecessary or outdated and should be deleted. Given the Commission's environmental rules are entwined with our historic preservation rules, we also seek comment on any impact to our National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) framework and examine what rule changes, if any, might be appropriate.

An updated framing paper is available [here](#).

Key Dates: Comments on the NPRM were due September 18, 2025, and Reply Comments were initially due October 3, 2025. Due to the lapse of congressional appropriations the FCC extended certain filing deadlines, including the NPRM's Reply Comment period, to November 18, 2025. Comments and meetings are also permitted at any time after the reply comment deadline (subject to the FCC's *ex parte* rules for presentations on the merits or outcome of the rulemaking).

Ex Parte Requirements: Tribal Nations and NHOs, like other interested parties, should file comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* presentations in the public record in order to put facts and arguments before the Commission in a manner such that they may be relied upon in the decision-making process. The Commission, however, will exempt *ex parte* presentations involving elected and appointed leaders, and duly appointed representatives, of federally-recognized Tribal Nations and NHOs from the disclosure requirements in permit-but-disclose proceedings (47 CFR § 1.1206) and the prohibitions on presentations during the Sunshine Agenda period (47 CFR § 1.1203). Specifically, presentations from elected and appointed leaders or duly appointed representatives of federally-recognized Tribal Nations or NHOs to Commission decision makers shall be exempt from disclosure. To be clear, while the Commission recognizes that consultation is critically important, we emphasize that the Commission will rely in its decision-making only on those materials that are placed in the public record for this proceeding.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request by sending an e-mail to: FCC504@fcc.gov or calling the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice). Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you if we need more information. Please make your request as early as possible as we may be unable to fulfill last-minute requests.

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