

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Modernizing the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act Rules,*  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 25-217 (August 7, 2025).

A couple of years ago, I had the chance to visit Casper, Wyoming. That's where I had the good fortune of meeting with some of the tower and construction crews that were installing and maintaining 5G infrastructure. As usual, I climbed a [cell phone tower](#), joining a tech named Charles who was installing a new 5G antenna about 100 feet in the sky. Not far from there, I met Matt and his crew who were operating a site to deliver [fixed wireless](#) service.

But perhaps my most memorable stop on the trip to Casper was to a site where nothing was happening at all. I visited a large lay down yard or lot, where I saw [70 miles of conduit](#) and 90 antennas just sitting idly. A local provider had laid out the money to purchase this equipment. They had the skilled workers to deploy that equipment. But they were stuck in a holding pattern because of the one thing they did NOT have: permitting approval.

This scenario plays out far too often across our country. Private companies want the green light to build, but nothing happens because of bureaucratic red tape. That is why we've made clearing regulatory barriers and unleashing high-speed builds a centerpiece of our Build America Agenda.

We've already made meaningful progress on this front. Two weeks ago, at our July open meeting, we voted to accelerate the upgrade from old copper line networks to modern ones and to ease access to utility poles.

With today's item, we're going after one of the biggest obstacles to building in America: the sclerotic regulatory regime that has been grafted onto the National Environmental Policy Act. If a major infrastructure project requires an environmental impact statement under NEPA, completing that study has historically taken [4.5 years](#). That's longer than it took to build The Golden Gate Bridge. Notably, just 3% of those studies are completed in less than a year—barely shorter than the time it took to build the entirety of the Empire State Building, almost a century ago.

All three branches of the government realize that the NEPA process is broken. In 2023, Congress reformed NEPA to eliminate many unnecessary reviews and accelerate others. Right after his inauguration in 2025, President Trump directed federal agencies to streamline their NEPA processes to unleash new builds. A few months later, the Supreme Court issued a [unanimous ruling](#) to curb NEPA litigation abuse.

The FCC has been doing its part to bring common sense to our environmental reviews. One of my first actions as Chairman, just three days into the job, was to [end consideration of a Biden-era proposal](#) that would have subjected tower builds to additional, needless, and onerous environmental reviews.

Today, we take the next step by launching an examination of our environmental regulations to make sure they are aligned with the amended NEPA statute and the new guidance from the White House and the Supreme Court. We will also take a fresh look at our historical preservation regulations. Our goal is to expedite and simplify permitting processes and clear the way for new infrastructure builds.

For their great work on this item, I'd like to thank Deborah Broderon, Jonathan Campbell, Jennifer Flynn, Garnet Hanly, Eli Johnson, Allison Jones, Robert Krinsky, John Lockwood, Marcus Maher, Jennifer Salhus, Chris Santini, and Anjali Singh.