AGENCY INFORMATION

Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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*If this form is submitted by a Permitting Council member's designee, please provide a delegation memo with the self-assessment submission.

SECTION 1. EXAMPLES OF BP IMPLEMENTATION

While FPISC OED does not require an implementation narrative for each BP category, it encourages each member agency to highlight its successes and challenges for each category. This can be in the form of identifying positive outcomes from implementation of a BP during FY 2020 or from identifying where a BP did not prevent the issue it was intended to prevent and how the agency or Permitting Council may want to consider addressing that. The specific BPs to be reported on are listed in Table 1 of the Fiscal Year 2020 Recommended Best Practices for Environmental Reviews and Authorizations for Infrastructure Projects and in Appendix B. Please note, BP Categories and BPs have been shortened in the dropdowns for ease of use.

Agencies are also encouraged to identify and submit "alternative BPs" that reflect where the agencies have implemented process improvements that meet the statutory BP categories but not one of the specific BPs identified in the FY 2020 BP Report. Alternative BPs should be submitted to FPISC OED by August 28, 2020 for approval before submitting the BP through this form. If your alternative BP has been approved, please choose "Alternative BP" from the "Corresponding BP" drop-down menu below for the appropriate entry.

Please adhere to a word count limit of 200 words per BP example in this section (i.e., if you provide examples of implementation of four BPs, please use four template boxes below for a total word count of 800 words), while thoroughly reflecting your accomplishments and challenges. Provide links and/or citations as appropriate, and provide as many relevant examples as possible. If you would like to provide more than four examples of BP implementation, please contact FPISC OED for a supplemental form.

Best Practice Category: (i) Early stakeholder engagem	Corresponding BP: Unique to Agency
Note: In September 2020, Commission staff confirmed with FPISC-OED that the alternative approach for this BP approved in FY 2019 was still adequate. Based on feedback from FPISC-OED, Commission staff have updated and supplemented the narrative for this alternative approach. The Commission has robust, structured pre-filing processes that include extensive pre-application communication with project sponsors and other stakeholders. For LNG and hydropower projects, pre-filing is required; for natural gas pipeline projects, pre-filing is not required but is encouraged for	

Best Practice Category: (ii) Timely decisions for ERA (	Corresponding BP: ii.1 ERA process templates/ c
Commission staff have developed a range of resources specifically for project sponsors in the Commission's review processes. The Commission's public website (www.ferc.gov) includes process flowcharts, application-adequacy checklists, application templates, and other guidance documents to assist project sponsors with filing the required information in a timely manner. In June 2020, the Commission launched a completely rebuilt public website to make information more accessible to the public, including resources for project sponsors. Based on public input, web analytics,	

Best Practice Category: (iii) Improving coordination	Corresponding BP: Unique to Agency
Note: In September 2020, Commission staff confirmed with FPISC-OED that the alternative approach for this BP approved in FY 2019 was still adequate. Based on feedback from FPISC-OED, Commission staff have updated and supplemented the narrative for this alternative approach. The Commission's Policy Statement on Consultation with Indian Tribes in Commission Proceedings (Order No. 635) is available at https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/common/opennat.asp?fileID=9745152. The policy statement articulates the Commission's commitment to promote a	

Best Practice Category: (iv) Increasing transparency	Corresponding BP: iv.1 Share information about
In FY 2020, the only proposal before the Commission to become a FAST-41 covered project was the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project. Prior to a FAST-41 Initiation Notice being submitted, Commission staff coordinated extensively with the project sponsor and cooperating agencies regarding the relevant review processes. This included coordination under the OFD MOU to clarify the cooperating agencies' outstanding information requirements to develop a single EIS. Commission staff also worked with the Forest Service to incorporate information regarding its authority and review processes into the Commission's NOI to Prepare an EIS issued in June 2020.	

SECTION 2. FAST-41 PROJECT SPECIFIC PERMITTING IMPROVEMENTS/OUTCOMES

This section should highlight examples from specific projects. Please include agency innovations, initiatives, successes, and identification of and resolution to challenges. Agencies are encouraged to report on FPISC OED recommendations from the FY 2019 ARC (See OED Assessment, Part 2).

Please adhere to a total word count limit of 300 words for this section, while thoroughly reflecting your accomplishments and challenges. Provide links and/or citations as appropriate. Provide as many relevant examples as possible in the space provided below.

Alaska LNG Project

After becoming a covered project in August 2017, Commission staff coordinated with 11 other federal agencies to complete the FAST-41 process for the proposed $38 billion Alaska LNG Project in approximately three years, including the completion of all federal reviews and authorizations. The project would consist of liquefaction facilities on the Kenai Peninsula designed to produce up to 20 million metric tons per annum LNG for export. It would also include an approximately 807-mile-long, 42-inch-diameter pipeline capable of transporting up to 3.9 billion cubic feet of gas per day to the liquefaction facilities, a gas treatment plant that would be located in the Prudhoe Bay at the North Slope, and two additional natural gas pipelines connecting production units to the gas treatment plant.

As part of the review process, Commission staff conducted various public meetings to support the

SECTION 3. PERMITTING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (GENERAL)

Please document activities undertaken by the agency in FY 2020 that may be outside the information captured in the two sections above. Examples include challenges addressed or looking to be addressed through actions like: new tracking systems, procedural changes, outreach efforts/information gathering, regulatory changes, and interagency discussions/working groups/agreements/collaboration through the Permitting Council and with other Permitting Council member agencies. This section provides a space to report any new and unexpected challenges with novel solutions developed by agencies. Addressing challenges that were anticipated, then addressed by existing or new BPs can be included in sections 1 and 2.

Please provide a narrative for each process improvement in a separate section below. Please adhere to a total word count limit of 300 words for this section, while thoroughly reflecting your accomplishments and challenges. Provide links and/or citations as appropriate. Provide as many relevant examples as possible in the space provided below.

The Commission staff highlighted its permitting process improvements for FY 2020 in section 1. For example, we described the improvements to our website and eLibrary system in BPs ii-1, vi-1 and viii-1, and our revised and improved section 106 consultation process in BP v-2.

This information has been reviewed by the Permitting Council Member and CERPO, and others as necessary (public affairs, legislative affairs, office of general counsel staff). I understand that this information will be used as submitted in the FPISC Annual Report to Congress and is testimony-ready for use by Administration officials. ☑

Heather Campbell

CERPO Name (or designee)	Signature

SUBMIT

Permitting Council Member Agency Self-Assessment

Agency Input to FPISC's FY 2020 Annual Report to Congress

Section 1 Supplement

Please use this section to supplement Section 1. Examples of BP Implementation. Please submit this document with your Agency Self-Assessment form to FPISC OED by October 14, 2020

Best Practice Category: (v) Reducing information coll	Corresponding BP: v.2 Joint processes or progra
The Commission has various joint processes or programmatic approaches with other federal agencies to improve review processes for infrastructure projects. Many of these processes/approaches are implemented via MOUs, which can be found on the Commission's public website (see https://www.ferc.gov/enforcement-legal/legal/memoranda-understanding-mou). As described in our responses to BPs ii.1 and vi.1, in FY 2020, the Commission rebuilt its public website and updated its list of MOUs accordingly. We have also incorporated these processes/approaches into internal guidance to ensure that they are implemented, as appropriate.	

Best Practice Category: (vi) GIS and other tools	Corresponding BP: vi.1 Knowledge sharing abou
Commission staff have developed a range of resources to help project sponsors and other stakeholders effectively participate in the Commission's review processes. For ease of access, these resources are housed on the Commission's public website (www.ferc.gov). In June 2020, the Commission launched a completely rebuilt public website to make information more accessible to the public, including resources for project sponsors and other stakeholders. Based on public inquiries, web analytics, and user testing, Commission staff redesigned the website layout,	

Best Practice Category: (vii) Training materials	Corresponding BP: vii.1 Provide training about F
In addition to the resources described in our input for BPs ii.1 and vi.1, the Commission's public website includes a webpage dedicated to FAST-41 (see https://www.ferc.gov/enforcement-legal/legal/federal-statutes/fast-41). This webpage includes information on how to become a covered project, links to the permitting dashboard and relevant guidance, and contact information for additional questions. In FY 2020, implementation of FAST-41 and the Permitting Council's BPs were extensively discussed at	

Best Practice Category: (viii) Other	Corresponding BP: viii.1 Outreach to stakeholde
As described in the public and tribal outreach section of Commission staff's CPPs, Commission staff used multiple stakeholder engagement methods in FY 2020 to increase the probability of reaching stakeholders and receiving information relevant to the Commission's review processes in a timely manner. This includes the use of the Commission's web-based eLibrary system (https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search), the Commission's public website, and social media, as appropriate. The Commission's eLibrary system serves as the docket and allows agencies and other stakeholders to track submittals and issuances for specific projects and proceedings. In addition to the	

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SUBMIT