



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3582

Introduced 2/5/2026, by Sen. Jil Tracy

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 608/5  
20 ILCS 608/7  
20 ILCS 608/10  
20 ILCS 608/15  
20 ILCS 608/25 new  
20 ILCS 608/30 new

Amends the Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform Act. Modifies requirements concerning the Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance. Provides that the Office shall implement reforms to improve interagency coordination and encourage expeditious permit issuance. Provides that the Office shall use information technology tools to track project schedules and metrics in order to improve transparency and accountability of the permitting process, reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and risks to taxpayers. Modifies and adds requirements concerning the expediting of permit reviews. Provides for the creation of an Interagency Permitting Advisory Committee. Provides additional requirements to improve the coordination of permit reviews. Defines terms. Makes other changes.

LRB104 18614 HLH 32057 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Business Assistance and Regulatory Reform  
5 Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 7, 10, and 15 and by  
6 adding Sections 25 and 30 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 608/5)

8 Sec. 5. Goal. The goal of this Act is to improve the  
9 State's business climate by making it easier for businesses to  
10 deal with State requirements for doing business. This Subject  
11 ~~to appropriation, this~~ goal will be achieved through providing  
12 prompt, accurate information about existing requirements,  
13 avoiding unnecessary requirements, expediting permit issuance,  
14 and increasing the transparency and accessibility of  
15 permitting processes by consolidating status updates from  
16 State agencies regarding the issuance of permits for covered  
17 projects.

18 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

19 (20 ILCS 608/7)

20 Sec. 7. Definitions. ~~Covered project.~~ As used in this  
21 Act: 7

22 "Authorization" means any license, permit, approval,

1 finding, determination, or other administrative decision that  
2 is issued by a State agency and any interagency consultation  
3 that is required or authorized under State law in order to  
4 site, construct, reconstruct, or commence operations of a  
5 covered project administered by a State agency or, in the case  
6 of a unit of local government that chooses to participate in  
7 the environmental review and authorization process in  
8 accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of  
9 subsection (c) of Section 30, a local permitting authority.

10 "Committee" means the Interagency Permitting Advisory  
11 Committee established under Section 25.

12 "Covered project" means any activity in Illinois that  
13 involves construction of infrastructure for renewable or  
14 conventional energy production, electricity transmission,  
15 surface transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, water  
16 resource projects, broadband, pipelines, or manufacturing and  
17 that requires authorization or environmental review by a State  
18 agency, is subject to permitting requirements pursuant to the  
19 Environmental Protection Act, and is likely to require a total  
20 investment of more than \$20,000,000.

21 "Project sponsor" means an entity, including any private  
22 entity, public entity, or public-private entity, seeking an  
23 authorization for a covered project.

24 ~~"covered project" means any project in Illinois that: (1)~~  
25 ~~involves the construction of infrastructure for renewable or~~  
26 ~~conventional energy production, electricity transmission,~~

1 ~~surface transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, water~~  
2 ~~resource development, broadband, pipelines, or manufacturing;~~  
3 ~~(2) requires authorization or environmental review by a State~~  
4 ~~agency; (3) is likely to require a total future investment of~~  
5 ~~more than \$20,000,000; and (4) is the subject of a petition for~~  
6 ~~recognition as a covered project that has been approved by the~~  
7 ~~Department.~~

8 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

9 (20 ILCS 608/10)

10 Sec. 10. Executive Office. There is created an Office of  
11 Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance (hereinafter  
12 referred to as "office") within the Department of Commerce and  
13 Community Affairs (now Department of Commerce and Economic  
14 Opportunity), which shall: (i) provide assistance to  
15 businesses in meeting State requirements for doing business,  
16 (ii) consolidate existing programs throughout State  
17 government, and (iii) perform other functions specified in  
18 this Act. The office shall implement reforms to improve  
19 interagency coordination that allow for expeditious permitting  
20 issuance. The office shall use information technology tools to  
21 track project schedules and metrics in order to improve  
22 transparency and accountability in the permitting process,  
23 reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and risks to  
24 taxpayers. The office shall use information technology tools  
25 to track schedules for covered projects and metrics in order

1 to improve transparency and accountability in the permitting  
2 process, reduce uncertainty and delays, and reduce costs and  
3 risks to taxpayers. The office shall carry out the provisions  
4 of this Act, ~~subject to funding through appropriation.~~

5 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

6 (20 ILCS 608/15)

7 Sec. 15. Providing Information and Expediting Permit  
8 Reviews.

9 (a) The office shall provide an online information system  
10 using a website advertised throughout the State. Interested  
11 businesses shall be sent, electronically, a basic business  
12 kit, describing the basic requirements and procedures for  
13 doing business in Illinois.

14 (b) (Blank).

15 (c) Any applicant for permits required for a business  
16 activity may confer with the office to obtain assistance in  
17 the prompt and efficient processing and review of  
18 applications. The office shall, ~~subject to appropriation,~~  
19 designate an employee of the office to act as a permit  
20 assistance manager to:

21 (1) facilitate contacts for the applicant with  
22 responsible agencies;

23 (2) arrange conferences to clarify the requirements of  
24 interested agencies;

25 (3) consider with State agencies the feasibility of

1 consolidating hearings and data required of the applicant;

2 (4) assist the applicant in resolution of outstanding  
3 issues identified by State agencies; and

4 (5) coordinate federal, State and local regulatory  
5 procedures and permit review actions to the extent  
6 possible.

7 (d) The office shall publish an online directory of State  
8 business permits and State programs to assist businesses.

9 (e) The office shall attempt to establish agreements with  
10 local governments to allow the office to provide assistance to  
11 applicants for permits required by these local governments.

12 (f) (Blank).

13 (g) In addition to its responsibilities in connection with  
14 permit assistance, the office shall provide general regulatory  
15 information by directing businesses to appropriate officers in  
16 State agencies to supply the information requested.

17 (h) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply  
18 to training programs available to train current employees in  
19 particular skills, techniques or areas of knowledge relevant  
20 to the employees' present or anticipated job duties. In  
21 pursuit of this objective, the office shall provide businesses  
22 with pertinent information about training programs offered by  
23 State agencies, units of local government, public universities  
24 and colleges, community colleges, and school districts in  
25 Illinois.

26 (i) The office shall help businesses to locate and apply

1 to State programs offering to businesses grants, loans, loan  
2 or bond guarantees, investment partnerships, technology or  
3 productivity consultation, or other forms of business  
4 assistance.

5 (j) To the extent authorized by federal law, the office  
6 shall assist businesses in ascertaining and complying with the  
7 requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

8 (k) The office shall provide confidential on-site  
9 assistance in identifying problems and solutions in compliance  
10 with requirements of State and federal environmental  
11 regulations. The office shall work through and contract with  
12 the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to provide  
13 confidential on-site consultation audits that (i) assist  
14 regulatory compliance and (ii) identify pollution prevention  
15 opportunities.

16 (k-5) Until July 1, 2012, the office shall provide  
17 confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited  
18 to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions  
19 regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal  
20 Occupational Safety and Health Administration. On and after  
21 July 1, 2012, the Department of Labor shall provide  
22 confidential on-site assistance, including, but not limited  
23 to, consultation audits, to identify problems and solutions  
24 regarding compliance with the requirements of the federal  
25 Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

26 (l) The office shall provide information on existing loan

1 and business assistance programs provided by the State.

2 (m) Each State agency having jurisdiction to approve or  
3 deny a permit shall have the continuing power heretofore or  
4 hereafter vested in it to make such determinations. The  
5 provisions of this Act shall not lessen or reduce such powers  
6 and shall modify the procedures followed in carrying out such  
7 powers only to the extent provided in this Act.

8 (n) (1) Each State agency shall, ~~subject to appropriation,~~  
9 fully cooperate with the office in providing information,  
10 documentation, personnel or facilities requested by the  
11 office.

12 (2) Each State agency shall annually provide the office  
13 with processes and timelines for all permits.

14 (o) (1) The office shall, ~~subject to appropriation,~~  
15 identify, develop, and track metrics for the timeline of  
16 permit reviews, permit decisions, and project outcomes for  
17 covered projects.

18 The office shall, ~~subject to appropriation,~~ administer and  
19 expand the use of online transparency tools providing:

20 (i) tracking and reporting metrics;

21 (ii) development and posting of regulatory timelines  
22 for permit reviews and permit decisions; those timelines  
23 shall be provided to the office by each State agency  
24 having jurisdiction over permits;

25 (iii) the sharing of best practices relating to  
26 efficient project permitting and reviews; those best

1 practices shall be provided to the office by each State  
2 agency having jurisdiction over permits; and

3 (iv) a visual display of relevant geospatial data to  
4 support the permitting process.

5 (2) The office shall ~~may~~ conduct or cause to be conducted a  
6 thorough review of any agency's permit requirements and the  
7 need by the State to require such permits. The office shall  
8 draw on the review, on its direct experience, and on its  
9 statistical analyses to prepare recommendations regarding how  
10 to:

11 (i) eliminate unnecessary or antiquated permit  
12 requirements;

13 (ii) consolidate duplicative or overlapping permit  
14 requirements;

15 (iii) simplify overly complex or lengthy application  
16 procedures;

17 (iv) expedite time-consuming agency review and  
18 approval procedures; or

19 (v) otherwise improve the permitting processes in the  
20 State.

21 The office shall submit copies of all recommendations  
22 within 5 days of issuance to the affected agency, the  
23 Governor, the General Assembly, and the Joint Committee on  
24 Administrative Rules.

25 (p) The office shall ~~may~~ review State forms to ascertain  
26 the burden, if any, of complying with those forms. If the

1 office determines that a form is unduly burdensome to  
2 business, it may recommend to the agency issuing the form  
3 either that the form be eliminated or that specific changes be  
4 made in the form.

5 (q) Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning March 1,  
6 1995, the office shall submit an annual report of its  
7 activities during the preceding year to the Governor and  
8 General Assembly. The report shall describe the activities of  
9 the office during the preceding year and shall contain  
10 statistical information on the permit assistance activities of  
11 the office.

12 (r) (Blank). ~~All provisions of this Section are subject to~~  
13 ~~adequate appropriation for the purpose of carrying out~~  
14 ~~provisions of this Section.~~

15 (Source: P.A. 103-538, eff. 1-1-24.)

16 (20 ILCS 608/25 new)

17 Sec. 25. Interagency Permitting Advisory Committee.

18 (a) The Interagency Permitting Advisory Committee is  
19 hereby established. The Director of each permitting agency  
20 shall designate a representative of the permitting agency to  
21 serve on the Committee and represent the permitting agency as  
22 the agency chief environmental review and permitting officer  
23 as required by this Act.

24 (b) In addition, the following officials or their  
25 designees shall serve as ex officio members of the Committee:

- 1           (1) the head of the Office of Business Permits and  
2           Regulatory Assistance;  
3           (2) the Director of the Environmental Protection  
4           Agency;  
5           (3) the Secretary of Transportation;  
6           (4) the Director of Natural Resources;  
7           (5) the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission;  
8           (6) the State Fire Marshal; and  
9           (7) the Director of Public Health.

10           (20 ILCS 608/30 new)

11           Sec. 30. Permitting process improvement.

12           (a) Project initiation and designation of participating  
13           agencies.

14           (1) Notice.

15           (A) A project sponsor of a covered project shall  
16           submit to the office notice of the initiation of a  
17           proposed covered project.

18           (B) Each notice described in subparagraph (A)  
19           shall include:

20                   (i) a statement of the purposes and objectives  
21                   of the proposed project;

22                   (ii) a concise description, including the  
23                   general location of the proposed project and a  
24                   summary of geospatial information, if available,  
25                   illustrating the project area and the locations,

1 if any, of environmental, cultural, and historic  
2 resources;

3 (iii) a statement regarding the technical and  
4 financial ability of the project sponsor to  
5 construct the proposed project;

6 (iv) a statement of any financing and  
7 authorizations anticipated to be required to  
8 complete the proposed project; and

9 (v) an assessment that the proposed project  
10 meets the definition of a covered project under  
11 Section 7 and a statement of reasons supporting  
12 the assessment.

13 (2) Invitation.

14 (A) Not later than 21 calendar days after the date  
15 on which the office makes a specific entry for the  
16 project on the Permitting Dashboard under paragraph  
17 (1) of subsection (b), the office, with input from the  
18 agency chief environmental review and permitting  
19 officer, shall:

20 (i) identify agencies and governmental  
21 entities likely to have financing, environmental  
22 review, authorization, or other responsibilities  
23 with respect to the proposed project; and

24 (ii) invite all agencies identified under  
25 clause (i) to become a cooperating agency, in the  
26 environmental review and authorization management

1 process described in this Section.

2 (B) Each invitation made under subparagraph (A)  
3 shall include a 14-calendar-day deadline for a  
4 response to be submitted to the office.

5 (3) Cooperating agencies.

6 (A) An agency invited under paragraph (2) shall be  
7 designated as a cooperating agency for a covered  
8 project, unless the agency informs the office in  
9 writing before the deadline under subparagraph (B) of  
10 paragraph (2) that the agency:

11 (i) has no jurisdiction or authority with  
12 respect to the proposed project; or

13 (ii) does not intend to exercise authority  
14 related to, or submit comments on, the proposed  
15 project.

16 (B) On request and a showing of changed  
17 circumstances, the office may designate an agency that  
18 has opted out under subparagraph (A)(ii) of this  
19 paragraph (3) of being a cooperating agency.

20 (4) The designation described in paragraph (3) shall  
21 not:

22 (A) give the cooperating agency authority or  
23 jurisdiction over the covered project; or

24 (B) expand any jurisdiction or authority a  
25 cooperating agency may have over the proposed project.

26 (b) Permitting Dashboard.

1 (1) Requirement to maintain.

2 (A) The office, in coordination with the  
3 Department of Innovation and Technology, shall  
4 maintain an online database to be known as the  
5 "Permitting Dashboard" to track the status of  
6 environmental reviews and authorizations for any  
7 covered project.

8 (B) If the office determines that the project is  
9 not a covered project, the project sponsor may submit  
10 a further explanation as to why the project is a  
11 covered project not later than 14 days after the date  
12 of being notified of the determination.

13 (C) Not later than 14 days after receiving an  
14 explanation described in subparagraph (B), the office  
15 shall:

16 (i) make a final and conclusive determination  
17 as to whether the project is a covered project;  
18 and

19 (ii) if the office determines that the project  
20 is a covered project, create a specific entry on  
21 the Permitting Dashboard for the covered project.

22 (2) Postings by agencies.

23 (A) For each covered project added to the  
24 Permitting Dashboard under paragraph (1), the office  
25 and each cooperating agency shall post to the  
26 Permitting Dashboard:

1           (i) a hyperlink that directs to a website that  
2 contains, to the extent consistent with applicable  
3 law:

4           (I) the notification submitted under  
5 paragraph (1) of subsection (a);

6           (II) where practicable, the applications  
7 and supporting documents that have been  
8 submitted by a project sponsor for any  
9 required environmental review or authorization  
10 or a notice explaining how the public may  
11 obtain access to such documents;

12           (III) a description of any agency action  
13 taken or decision made that materially affects  
14 the status of a covered project;

15           (IV) any significant document that  
16 supports the action or decision described in  
17 subclause (III); and

18           (V) a description of the status of any  
19 litigation to which the agency is a party that  
20 is directly related to the project, including,  
21 if practicable, any judicial document made  
22 available on an electronic docket maintained  
23 by a federal, State, or local court; and

24           (ii) any document described in clause (i) that  
25 is not available by hyperlink on another website.

26           (B) The information described in subparagraph (A)

1 shall be posted to the website made available by  
2 hyperlink on the Permitting Dashboard not later than 5  
3 business days after the date on which the agency  
4 receives the information.

5 (3) Postings by the office. The office shall publish  
6 to the Permitting Dashboard:

7 (A) the permitting timetable established under  
8 paragraph (2) of subsection (c);

9 (B) the status of the compliance of each agency  
10 with the permitting timetable;

11 (C) any modifications of the permitting timetable;

12 (D) an explanation of each modification described  
13 in subparagraph (C); and

14 (E) any memorandum of understanding established  
15 under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of subsection  
16 (c).

17 (c) Coordination and timetables.

18 (1) Coordinated project plan.

19 (A) Not later than 60 days after the date on which  
20 it makes a specific entry for the project on the  
21 Permitting Dashboard, the office, in consultation with  
22 each agency chief environmental review and permitting  
23 officer, shall establish a concise plan for  
24 coordinating public and agency participation in, and  
25 completion of, any required environmental review and  
26 authorization for the project.

1           (B) The coordinated project plan shall include the  
2 following information and be updated by the office, as  
3 applicable, at least once per quarter:

4           (i) A list of all entities with environmental  
5 review or authorization responsibility for the  
6 project and their roles and responsibilities.

7           (ii) A permitting timetable, as described in  
8 paragraph (2), setting forth a comprehensive  
9 schedule of dates by which all environmental  
10 reviews and authorizations and, to the maximum  
11 extent practicable, other jurisdictions' permits,  
12 reviews, and approvals must be made.

13           (iii) A discussion of potential avoidance,  
14 minimization, and mitigation strategies, if  
15 required by applicable law and known.

16           (iv) Plans and a schedule for public outreach  
17 and coordination, to the extent required by  
18 applicable law.

19           (C) The coordinated project plan described in  
20 subparagraph (A) may be incorporated into a memorandum  
21 of understanding.

22           (2) Permitting timetable.

23           (A) As part of the coordination project plan under  
24 paragraph (1), the office, in consultation with each  
25 agency chief environmental review and permitting  
26 officer, the project sponsor, and any unit of local

1 government in which the project is located, and,  
2 subject to subparagraph (C), with the concurrence of  
3 each cooperating agency, shall establish a permitting  
4 timetable that includes intermediate and final  
5 completion dates for action by each cooperating agency  
6 on any environmental review or authorization required  
7 for the project. The final completion dates shall be  
8 based on relevant historical data but with the aim of  
9 completing all required authorizations within 2 years.

10 (B) In establishing the permitting timetable under  
11 subparagraph (A), the office may vary the timetable  
12 based on relevant factors including:

13 (i) the size and complexity of the covered  
14 project;

15 (ii) the resources available to each  
16 participating agency;

17 (iii) the regional or national economic  
18 significance of the project;

19 (iv) the sensitivity of the natural or  
20 historic resources that may be affected by the  
21 project;

22 (v) the financing plan for the project; and

23 (vi) the extent to which similar projects in  
24 geographic proximity to the project were recently  
25 subject to environmental review or similar  
26 procedures under State law.

1 (C) Dispute resolution.

2 (i) The office, in consultation with  
3 appropriate agency chief environmental review and  
4 permitting officers and the project sponsor,  
5 shall, as necessary, mediate any disputes  
6 regarding the permitting timetable referred to  
7 under subparagraph (A).

8 (ii) If a dispute remains unresolved 30 days  
9 after the date on which the dispute was submitted  
10 to the office, the Director of the Governor's  
11 Office of Management and Budget shall facilitate a  
12 resolution of the dispute and direct the agencies  
13 that are parties to the dispute to resolve the  
14 dispute by the end of the 60-day period beginning  
15 on the date of submission of the dispute to the  
16 office.

17 (iii) Any action taken by the Director of the  
18 Governor's Office of Management and Budget in the  
19 resolution of a dispute under clause (ii) shall:

20 (I) be final and conclusive; and

21 (II) not be subject to judicial review.

22 (D) Modification after approval.

23 (i) The office may modify a permitting  
24 timetable established under subparagraph (A) only  
25 if:

26 (I) the affected cooperating agencies,

1 after consultation with the project sponsor,  
2 agree to a different completion date;

3 (II) the affected cooperating agency  
4 provides a written justification for the  
5 modification; and

6 (III) in the case of a modification that  
7 would necessitate an extension of a final  
8 completion date under a permitting timetable  
9 established under subparagraph (A) to a date  
10 more than 30 days after the final completion  
11 date originally established under subparagraph  
12 (A), the office shall consult with the project  
13 sponsor and make a determination on the  
14 record, based on consideration of the relevant  
15 factors described under subparagraph (B),  
16 whether to make such modification.

17 (ii) A completion date in the permitting  
18 timetable may not be modified within 30 days after  
19 the completion date.

20 (iii) Limitation on length of modifications.

21 (I) Except as provided in subclause (II),  
22 the total length of all modifications to a  
23 permitting timetable authorized or made under  
24 this subparagraph (D), other than for reasons  
25 outside the control of federal, State, local,  
26 or tribal governments, may not extend the

1 permitting timetable for a period of time  
2 greater than half of the amount of time from  
3 the establishment of the permitting timetable  
4 under subparagraph (A) to the last final  
5 completion date originally established under  
6 subparagraph (A).

7 (II) The Director of the Governor's Office  
8 of Management and Budget, after consultation  
9 with the project sponsor, may permit the  
10 office to authorize additional extensions of a  
11 permitting timetable beyond the limit  
12 prescribed by subclause (I). In such a case,  
13 the Director of the Governor's Office of  
14 Management and Budget shall transmit, not  
15 later than 5 days after making a determination  
16 to permit an authorization of extension under  
17 this subclause (II), a report to the General  
18 Assembly explaining why such modification is  
19 required. Such report shall explain to the  
20 General Assembly with specificity why the  
21 original permitting timetable and the  
22 modifications authorized by the office failed  
23 to be adequate. The office shall transmit to  
24 the Director of the Governor's Office of  
25 Management and Budget a supplemental report on  
26 progress toward the final completion date each

1           year thereafter, until the permit review is  
2           completed or the project sponsor withdraws its  
3           notice or application or other request to  
4           which this Section applies.

5           (iv) The following shall not be subject to  
6           judicial review:

7                   (I) A determination by the office under  
8                   subclause (III) of clause (i).

9                   (II) A determination under subclause (II)  
10                  of clause (iii) by the Director of the  
11                  Governor's Office of Management and Budget to  
12                  permit the office to authorize extensions of a  
13                  permitting timetable.

14                  (E) A permitting timetable established under  
15                  subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with any other  
16                  relevant time period established under law and shall  
17                  not prevent any cooperating agency from discharging  
18                  any obligation under law in connection with the  
19                  project.

20                  (F) Conforming to permitting timetables.

21                   (i) Each agency shall conform to the  
22                   completion dates set forth in the permitting  
23                   timetable established under subparagraph (A), or  
24                   with any completion date modified under  
25                   subparagraph (D).

26                   (ii) If an agency fails to conform with a

1 completion date for agency action on a covered  
2 project or is at significant risk of failing to  
3 conform with such a completion date, the agency  
4 shall:

5 (I) promptly submit to the office for  
6 publication on the Permitting Dashboard an  
7 explanation of the specific reasons for  
8 failing or significantly risking failing to  
9 conform to the completion date and a proposal  
10 for an alternative completion date;

11 (II) in consultation with the office,  
12 establish an alternative completion date; and

13 (III) each month thereafter until the  
14 agency has taken final action on the delayed  
15 authorization or review, submit to the office  
16 for posting on the Permitting Dashboard a  
17 status report describing any agency activity  
18 related to the project.

19 (G) Abandonment of covered project.

20 (i) If the office has a reasonable basis to  
21 doubt the continuing technical or financial  
22 ability of the project sponsor to construct the  
23 covered project, the office may request the  
24 project sponsor provide an updated statement  
25 regarding the ability of the project sponsor to  
26 complete the project.

1           (ii) If the project sponsor fails to respond  
2           to a request described in clause (i) by the date  
3           that is 30 days after receiving the request, the  
4           office shall publish an appropriate notice on the  
5           Permitting Dashboard.

6           (iii) On publication of a notice under clause  
7           (ii), the completion dates in the permitting  
8           timetable shall be tolled and agencies shall be  
9           relieved of the obligation to comply with  
10          subparagraph (F) until the project sponsor submits  
11          to the office an updated statement regarding the  
12          technical and financial ability of the project  
13          sponsor to construct the project.

14          (3) Cooperating local governments.

15           (A) If the environmental review is being  
16           implemented within the boundaries of a unit of local  
17           government, it may choose to participate in the  
18           environmental review and authorization process under  
19           this subsection and to make subject to the process all  
20           local authorities that:

21           (i) have jurisdiction over the covered  
22           project;

23           (ii) are required to conduct or issue a  
24           review, analysis, opinion, or statement for the  
25           covered project; or

26           (iii) are required to make a determination on

1 issuing a permit, license, or other approval or  
2 decision for the covered project.

3 (B) To the maximum extent practicable under  
4 applicable law, the office shall coordinate the  
5 environmental review and authorization processes under  
6 this subsection (c) with any local authority  
7 responsible for conducting any separate review or  
8 authorization of the covered project to ensure timely  
9 and efficient completion of environmental reviews and  
10 authorizations.

11 (C) Any coordination plan between the office and  
12 any local authority shall, to the maximum extent  
13 practicable, be included in a memorandum of  
14 understanding.

15 (d) Early consultation. The office shall provide an  
16 expeditious process for project sponsors to confer with each  
17 cooperating agency involved and, not later than 60 days after  
18 the date on which the project sponsor submits a request under  
19 this subsection, to have each such agency provide to the  
20 project sponsor information concerning:

21 (1) the availability of information and tools,  
22 including pre-application toolkits, to facilitate early  
23 planning efforts;

24 (2) key issues of concern to each agency and to the  
25 public; and

26 (3) issues that must be addressed before an

1 environmental review or authorization can be completed.