

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
**Sent:** Mon 7/3/2017 6:48:58 PM  
**Subject:** BLM seeking comment on improving land-use planning process

By Esther Whieldon

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BLM is asking for comments on ways to improve its land-use planning and environmental review processes while also addressing local concerns.

The agency will be accepting comments through July 24 in an [online questionnaire](#), and it plans to use them for a report to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this year on ways to speed up and decrease the costs of the processes.

President Donald Trump in March signed a Congressional Review Act resolution that revoked BLM's Planning 2.0 rule, which had updated those processes. Critics of that Obama-era rule, including fossil fuel companies, said it decreased the role of states and local field offices in planning and prioritized conservation over tapping into natural resources.

The request for comments reflects this administration's belief that "public engagement, especially at the local level, is a critical component of federal land management," acting BLM Director Michael Nedd said in a [statement](#). BLM is already working with local groups, including the Western Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties, on possible solutions, Nedd said.

The CRA bars BLM from writing another rule that is substantially the same, so it remains unclear what Zinke will ultimately decide to do with the recommendations.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** BLM will be accepting comments through July 24.

*To view online:*

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