

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 677

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To establish a process to expedite the review of appeals
of certain decisions by the Department of the Interior.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expedited Appeals Re-
3 view Act” or the “EARA”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED REVIEWS.**

5 (a) REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW.—A party
6 that files an appeal of a Department of the Interior deci-
7 sion described under section 4.1(b)(2) of title 43, Code
8 of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations),
9 with the Board of Land Appeals may submit to the Board
10 of Land Appeals written notice of such party’s intent to
11 seek expedited review of the appeal. If a party submits
12 such written notice, the Board of Land Appeals shall issue
13 a final decision on the appeal by not later than the date
14 that is 6 months after the date on which such written no-
15 tice is received, except such deadline may not be earlier
16 than the date that is 18 months after the date on which
17 the appeal was initially filed with the Board of Land Ap-
18 peals.

19 (b) NO FINAL DECISION.—If the Board of Land Ap-
20 peals does not issue a final decision on an appeal by the
21 deadline described in subsection (a)—

22 (1) the Department of the Interior decision is
23 deemed to be a final agency action for purposes of
24 section 704 of title 5, United States Code; and

6 (1) is pending before the Board of Land Ap-
7 peals as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(d) CONFLICT.—In the event of a conflict between the deadline described in subsection (a) and a deadline under section 115(h) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1724(h)) or section 525(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1275(b)), the deadline described in subsection (a) shall control.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.