Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop Toolkit

In the past, uncertainty regarding the duration and outcome of the permit process has been a deterrent for investment in renewable energy projects, slowing the construction of clean energy projects. Reducing the permitting time, or reducing the number of required permits, can significantly lessen total project costs and investor risk, encouraging clean energy developments for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Fiscal Year 2014 Scope

Building on the Geothermal
Regulatory Roadmap's success
improving outcomes for federal
and state permitting and review
of infrastructure projects, EERE
is partnering with others to create
a new suite of tools to facilitate
efficient permitting of new
geothermal, solar, and transmission
projects: the Regulatory and
Permitting Information Desktop
(RAPID) Toolkit.

Goals

- Enhance transparency and understanding by all stakeholders involved in the permitting process.
- Facilitate communication among agencies.



Photo courtesy Ram Power Orita Project. Imperial Valley. California

- Save agencies time in explaining the permitting process to industry and to its own personnel.
- Help in training new staff and documenting procedures.
- Help provide consistency among agencies, or an agency's multiple offices
- Serve as a model for jurisdictions that have yet to develop permitting regulations.
- Provide an online forum for communicating permitting processes and for making documents available.

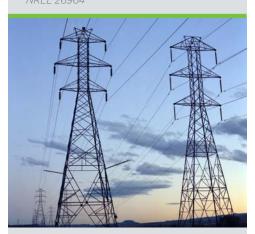
- Provide the data and background analysis needed to inform policymakers and stakeholders in developing new regulations, policies, and rules.
- Provide service to agencies in times of continually decreasing budgets.
- Decrease project risks by reducing delays and costs, as well as eliminating uncertainties.
- Provide greater assurance to stakeholders that the project will be conducted in a technically, environmentally, and socially responsible fashion.



The Geothermal Regulatory Roadmap was highlighted in a 2013 report to the President, Rebuilding America's Infrastructure: Cutting Timelines and Improving Outcomes for Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects. Photo by Pete Souza, White House



67-kW PV array, Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center in Montezuma County, Colorado. *Photo by Dennis Schroeder,* NREL 26964



Electric power transmission lines. *Photo by Warren Gretz, NREL 10926*

Deliverables

The U.S. Department of Energy is developing a new suite of regulatory and permitting assistance tools for launch in Fiscal Year 2014 under the umbrella of the RAPID Toolkit. Tools planned for initial RAPID Toolkit releases include the following.

Regulatory Roadmaps Modeled on the acclaimed Geothermal Regulatory

Roadmap, this set of flowcharts covers the requirements for developing energy projects, including land access, siting, exploration and drilling, plant construction and operation, grid interconnection, water resource acquisition, and relevant

Permitting Atlas The Permitting Atlas

is a collection of wiki

environmental considerations.

pages that provide overviews of regulatory and permitting requirements and allow users to compare requirements among states and technologies. For example, a developer can look up land access requirements across multiple states or compare how exploration permitting requirements differ from state to state.

Resource Library

The Resource Library assembles links to permits, processes, guidance, manuals, examples, regulations, rules, contacts, and other regulatory and permuting documents that are publicly available on other websites. Users can use the library to find related documents or add to the library by providing links to additional documents.

NEPA Database

The NEPA database is a collection of documents and metadata for previously conducted NEPA analyses that can be used to inform future analyses. The database catalogs proposed activities, NEPA timelines and applications, reports and decision documents, impacted resources, and proposed and imposed mitigations for these resources.

Visit RAPID Toolkit: http://en.openei.org/wiki/RAPID.

Interested in participating in the development of the RAPID Toolkit? Contact RAPIDtoolkit@nrel.gov.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

For more information, visit: geothermal.energy.gov