

The RAPID Toolkit

Facilitating Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Development

The Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop (RAPID) Toolkit provides information about permits and regulations that affect renewable energy and bulk transmission projects.

Navigating the complex system of federal and state regulations to secure project approvals is one of the biggest hurdles renewable energy developers face. Uncertainty regarding the duration and outcome of the permitting process can be a deterrent for investment in clean energy and slow down the construction of renewable energy and bulk transmission projects. The RAPID Toolkit makes permitting information rapidly accessible from one location by providing links to permit applications, processes, manuals, and related information. Its goal is to facilitate communication between project developers and permitting agency personnel, among permitting agencies at all jurisdiction levels, and among all project stakeholders – including the public. Reducing the permitting timeline—and clarifying the process—can significantly lessen total project costs and investor risk and, ultimately, encourage future clean energy development.

Toolkit Components The RAPID Toolkit includes a regulatory flowchart library, a resource library, a National Environmental Policy Act document database, and a collection of best practices. <http://en.openei.org/wiki/RAPID>.



Regulatory Flowchart Library A collection of regulatory roadmaps that outline the major requirements for developing energy and bulk transmission projects.



Reference Library A collection of links to regulatory and permitting documents, regulations, and tools available on other websites.



NEPA Database A collection of document sets and details from previously conducted NEPA analyses that can be used to inform future analyses.

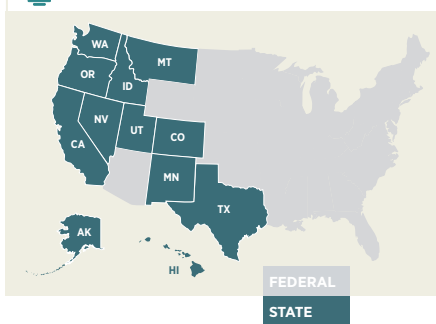


Best Practices A collection of best practices for efficiently permitting renewable energy and bulk transmission projects.

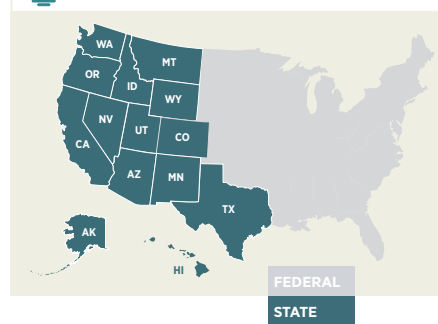
2015 RAPID Toolkit Snapshot The maps below provide a snapshot of the RAPID Toolkit in its current state of development. The RAPID Toolkit includes information on geothermal, solar, and bulk transmission permitting and regulation and is expanding in 2015 to include hydropower. Federal regulations have been outlined for all four of the technologies and numerous state permitting and regulatory processes have been outlined for geothermal, solar, and bulk transmission. Additional states for hydropower and solar are in the early planning stage and will be announced as finalized.



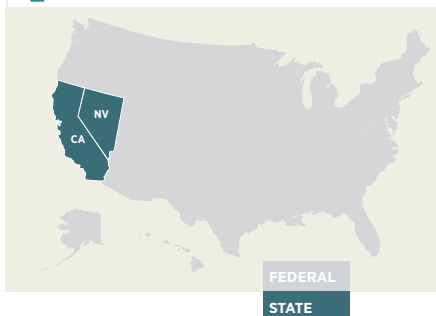
GEOTHERMAL



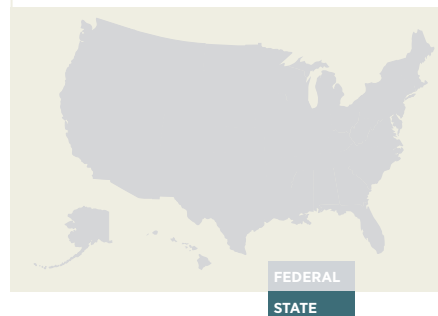
BULK TRANSMISSION



SOLAR



HYDROPOWER





The RAPID Toolkit:

- Enhances transparency and understanding by all stakeholders involved in the permitting process
- Facilitates communication among agencies
- Saves agencies time by explaining the permitting process to industry
- Helps agencies train new staff and document procedures
- Helps agencies provide consistency among multiple offices
- Provides a model for jurisdictions that have yet to develop permitting regulations
- Provides a forum for sharing and maintaining permitting processes and documents
- Provides data and background analysis to inform policymakers and stakeholders in the development of new regulations, policies, and rules.

Contribute to the Development of the RAPID Toolkit

Success of the RAPID Toolkit is largely due to the active participation of industry and agency personnel. Contributions help facilitate communication between developers and agency personnel at all jurisdiction levels. For this reason, the tool was developed on a wiki platform to encourage users to keep the content accurate and up-to-date. Learn how you can contribute at <http://en.openei.org/wiki/RAPID/Contribute>.

The RAPID Toolkit was developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Western Governors' Association.

The RAPID Toolkit is making an impact today.

Reducing Duplication in Nevada. Water monitoring plans were required at federal, state, and local levels—with different design and reporting requirements for each. Now, the agencies have agreed to coordinate on creation of a single set of requirements, to develop one reporting form, and establish a single agency as the point of contact. This effort saves developers time, makes agencies aware of each other's concerns and requirements, and increases communication among all the agencies.

Facilitating Communication in California. The RAPID Toolkit's regulatory roadmap outlines the nuances and overlapping jurisdictions in California's permitting processes, leading developers and agencies to a better understanding of the permitting landscape. The RAPID Toolkit helped increase communication between state and county permitting authorities.

Mapping Uncharted Territory in Colorado. The RAPID Toolkit team worked with state and local agencies as well as state representatives from federal agencies to map the regulatory and permitting process for geothermal energy development in Colorado. Geothermal developers took the completed roadmap to their financiers, and the Colorado Bureau of Land Management is using the federal portions of the roadmap as a guide to leasing and permitting geothermal projects on federal lands in Colorado.