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OBJECTIVES

• To provide easy access to federal and state-level hydropower permitting information and tools, including: statutes, regulations, permit applications, processes guidance, manuals, examples, contacts, and other relevant information

• To convene industry stakeholders from agencies and industry to validate the permitting process

• To work with all stakeholders to promote integration of hydropower licensing regulatory processes

• To facilitate communication—between project developers and agency personnel, among agencies at all jurisdictional levels, and among all project stakeholders, including the public.
OVERVIEW

The Hydropower RAPID Toolkit provides easy access to permitting information from one online location.

FEATURES

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

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

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

NEPA Database
A collection of document set and details from past NEPA analyses.
OVERVIEW

The Hydropower RAPID Toolkit provides easy access to permitting information from one online location.

FEATURES

Regulatory Flowchart Library
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Best Practices
A collection of best practices for efficiently permitting renewable energy and bulk transmission projects
BENEFITS

- Enhances permitting process transparency and understanding
- Facilitates communication among stakeholders, which can help reduce permitting time, lower total project costs, and reduce investor risk
- Saves agencies time previously spent explaining permitting processes to personnel and industry
- Helps in training new staff and in documenting procedures
- Enhances consistency among agencies with multiple offices
- Provides information for jurisdictions that have less experience with hydropower permitting regulations
- Decreases project risk by reducing delays and costs and eliminating uncertainties
- Encourages future hydropower development.
**Hydropower RAPID Project Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Roadmap federal regulations and 2 states; continue to meet with agencies and other stakeholders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2016 | • Continue roadmapping individual states based on developed criteria  
     • Evaluate best practice component with stakeholders and work with stakeholders to populate best practices  
     • Continue to invest in RAPID website |
| 2017 | Evaluate Hydropower Vision data for issues of concern in regulatory and permitting arena |
| 2018 | Maintain and curate RAPID website  
     Merit-reviewed New 3-Year Maintenance AOP  
     Continue dialogue with all interested agencies and stakeholders including receiving and utilizing feedback from and training users in use and maintenance of the toolkit |
The Hydropower RAPID Toolkit covers conventional hydropower dam licensing and re-licensing, as well as pumped storage and small hydropower projects.
TOPICS COVERED

- Topics represent the major regulatory requirements for project development
- The Environment process topic is further subdivided into areas of potential impact, mirroring the common sections of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAPID TOPICS</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENT SUBTOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Agency Land Use Planning</td>
<td>• Environmental Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Project Siting</td>
<td>• On-Site Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Land Access</td>
<td>• Cultural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Construction and Transportation</td>
<td>• Biological Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permits</td>
<td>• Pre-existing Land Use Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Facility Licensing, Certification</td>
<td>• Water Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety, and Regulation</td>
<td>• Air Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transmission</td>
<td>• Geological Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environment Process</td>
<td>• Aesthetic and Recreational Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water Access &amp; Water Rights</td>
<td>• Waste &amp; Hazardous Materials</td>
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</table>
## Ways to Navigate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency Land Use Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Federal Energy Regulatory Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Site Considerations</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bureau of Reclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Access</td>
<td></td>
<td>• US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Transportation Permits</td>
<td></td>
<td>• National Marine Fisheries Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Licensing, Certification, Safety</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Army Corp of Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Regulation</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bureau of Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission Siting &amp; Interconnection</td>
<td></td>
<td>• US Forest Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Process</td>
<td></td>
<td>• National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Access/Rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Decommissioning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Alaska**
- **California**
- **Vermont**
- **Washington**
- **Colorado**
- **New York**
Collaborating on Regulatory Processes for Renewable Energy and Bulk Transmission Projects

The Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop (RAPID) Toolkit offers one location for agencies, developers, and industry stakeholders to work together on federal and state renewable energy and bulk transmission regulatory processes by using a wiki environment to share permitting guidance, regulations, contacts, and other relevant information.

Choose Your Project Type

Bulk Transmission
Regulations & Permitting

Geothermal
Regulations & Permitting

Hydropower
Regulations & Permitting

Solar
Regulations & Permitting

Don't see your technology?

Category: RAPID Toolkit
The Regulatory Flowchart Library is a set of flowcharts providing detailed information outlining the requirements for developing energy projects, including topics such as preliminary site considerations, land access, facility construction and operation, grid interconnection, water resource acquisition, and relevant environmental considerations.

Flowchart Narrative

3-FD-p.1 to 3-FD-p.6 -- Will a Proposed Non-Federal Hydroelectric Project be a Conduit or a Dam?

There are distinct procedures for QDR issuance of LOFRs for conduits and dams.

Conduit


Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114-91, Sec. 7, A(2) and (3)).

A conduit is defined as "any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar movable water conveyance that is primarily a real property improvement for the purpose of delivering water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity or for alterations, additions, or foundation variations of proposed conveyance features" (54 U.S.C. 14301(2)).

To begin the LOFR's process for hydropower development on a QDR conduit, the developer must submit a Form 68-08, Sections 7A-2(6) and 11b-1(a). If a Form 68-08 is "incomplete or an official letter to the regional director from an interested party which initiates the process with submission of an FPG.

Dams

The LOFR process for hydropower development of QDR dams requires FERC and the QDR to make a joint determination.

FERC will grant jurisdiction to a non-federal hydropower development if the QDR has a non-federal hydropower license for the facility or if the QDR has a federal hydropower license for the facility.

Under the 1981 FERC Act, FERC will not alter jurisdiction to a non-federal hydropower development in which the QDR has a non-federal hydropower license unless the QDR has a federal hydropower license for the facility.

Regulatory Flowchart Library

Lead the developer through a set of questions identifying potential regulatory or permit approvals that may be triggered by development activities.

Consists of flowcharts and supporting materials, including links to relevant regulations and documents.
Reference Library assembles links to statutes, permit applications, process guidance, manuals, examples, contacts, and other regulatory and permitting documents that are publicly available on other websites. Users can search the library by topic, jurisdiction, or federal agency administering the process.
Best Practices provides a set of analyses outlining best practices, case studies, examples and templates for selected topics to provide useful insights into completing the regulatory process.

### Coordinated Approaches Reviewed In Detail

**Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)**
- Renewable energy projects
- Power production only

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNRA) Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP)**
- Large project coordination
- No specific limitations

**Bureau of Land Management**
- Oil and gas projects on BLM-administered public lands
- Within the territorial jurisdiction of specific statutorily designated offices
The **NEPA Database** is a collection of documents and metadata for previously conducted NEPA analyses that can be used to inform future NEPA analyses. The database catalogs metadata for each project, such as: proposed activities, timelines, applications, reports and decision documents, impacted resources, and proposed and imposed mitigations for these resources.

### Resource Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Not Present</th>
<th>Present, Not Affected</th>
<th>Present, Potentially Affected</th>
<th>Not Indicated</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Applicant Proposed Mitigation</th>
<th>Agency Imposed Mitigation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
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<td>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
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<td>Cultural Resources</td>
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<td>Environmental Justice</td>
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<td>Floodplains</td>
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<td>Invasive, Nonnative Species</td>
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<td>Migratory Birds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American Concerns</td>
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</table>
• Success of the RAPID Toolkit depends on the continued active participation of industry and agency personnel.

• Feedback from stakeholders helps to identify the greatest need and has the largest impact on making the permitting process more transparent.

• The toolkit’s wiki platform and feedback widget allow industry and agencies to help maintain the content so that it continues to provide relevant and accurate information to its users in the future.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Provide Feedback**
- Provide website interface feedback
- Review and provide feedback on content – update contact information, flowcharts, and narratives

**Help Spread the Word**
- Share with others in your organization/agency
- Discuss with superiors to encourage adoption and maintenance (agencies)
- Increase awareness among agency personnel and other developers by asking them to use and help maintain.

**Use the Website**
- Print out or download and use at meetings with industry/agencies
- Use as a tool for conversations with applicants and other agencies
- Incorporate information into training for new staff.

**Support RAPID (Agencies)**
- Watch relevant pages – you will receive emails about any modifications
- Conduct annual review of relevant content – has your agency had any procedural changes in the past year that should be indicated?
Thank You

For questions or comments, please contact:

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Stay in touch with all Hydropower RAPID Toolkit developments.

rapidtoolkit.org
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