

Excerpt from Federal Plan: “*Implementing Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects*”

Action: Develop an application tool-kit for electricity transmission and renewable energy projects. Assess the potential benefits of application tool-kits for additional sectors of infrastructure projects, and make recommendations for implementation.

Implemented by: The co-chairs of the transmission RRT will deliver a plan and schedule for launching an application toolkit for transmission projects to the Federal CPO by November 30, 2012. The co-chairs of the Renewable Energy RRT will deliver a plan and schedule for launching an application toolkit for renewable energy projects by December 31, 2012. The Steering Committee will assess the potential benefits of additional sector-specific application tool-kits and provide recommendations to the Federal CPO by December 31, 2012.

Large projects such as electricity transmission lines and large-scale renewable energy projects can involve multiple Federal, Tribal, State, and local permit decisions and reviews that require complex coordination. As demonstrated by the Department of the Interior’s leadership in developing renewable energy on Federal lands, developing innovative approaches such as application toolkits will provide greater clarity and predictability to project sponsors and enable Federal agencies to begin permitting and review processes faster and with fewer delays.

Tool-kits might include:

- Examples and suggestions for developing strong applications;
- Tools for planning stakeholder outreach and engagement;
- Definitions of what is needed for an application to be “complete” for each agency required to make a permit/review decision;
- Identification of Tribal, State, and local governments roles;
- Estimated permit decision and review timelines;
- Applicant trainings, webinars, or meetings;
- Identification and initial assessment of the resource areas potentially impacted;
- Project-specific best management practices and upfront avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures such as project siting information and guidance; and
- Description of application process, from first notice to final decision.