



Center for Advanced
Energy Studies

*A research
partnership between
Boise State University,
Idaho National
Laboratory, Idaho
State University and
University of Idaho.*

Center for Advanced Energy Studies

David Solan

Director, Energy Policy Institute

davidsolan@boisestate.edu

(208) 426-4845

TRANSMISSION SITING AND PUBLIC LANDS: OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND THE GATEWAY WEST CASE STUDY

Presentation to the State Provincial Steering Committee at the
January 11, 2011 meeting in San Diego



Options for Improvement – Performance Management at the Federal Level

- ***Walk the Talk – 10/09 MOU (DEIS Importance)***
 - Forming NEPA Rapid Response Teams;
 - Developing performance measures for project and process schedules;
 - Setting reporting standards for the performance measures;
 - Designing explicit processes for input from staff;
 - Discussing project progress at regularly scheduled management meetings at the agency and interagency levels; and
 - In addition to individual 216(h) projects, publishing a unified report on proposed transmission projects subject to NEPA, and make it publicly available.

Options for Improvement – Local Level

- **Providing local governments and municipalities with resources to assist in developing comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that account for the siting of transmission facilities**
 - **These resources could also help to coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions.**

Options for Improvement – Project Proponents

- Incorporating social risk into route selection through use of innovative decision support tools. They would complement existing engineering and GIS tools, not replace them.
 - Realize that there may need to be a differentiation between public and private land routing preferences in certain areas

Options for Improvement – Standby Support

- **Providing financial “Standby Support” for regulatory or NEPA process delays for “priority” transmission lines.**
 - **Modeled on Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act, dealing with nuclear power plants and unwarranted permitting or legal delays**
 - **Requires baseline data of reasonable time periods to complete the NEPA process**
 - **Performance measures and reporting can provide data**

David Solan

davidsolan@boisestate.edu

(208) 426-4845