

## Discussion Topics

**Transmission Application Toolkit:** The RRTT is developing an Application Toolkit in accordance with the Federal Plan implementing Executive Order 13604. Once completed, this Toolkit will provide a centralized location for stakeholders to access information on transmission line application processes, best practices, tools for outreach and engagement, and general information regarding natural, cultural, and visual resources including assessment approaches and mitigation policies and practices. What value would such a Toolkit offer to stakeholders, and how could it be best utilized? What information or functionality would be useful to include?

- Toolkit should incorporate state and local regulatory information and commonality with federal reviews
- Contacts for decision makers at state and federal levels.
- GIS based, drill down ability to access information in a selected geographical area.
- Credible sources of data that all federal and state agencies are agreement upon; developer or stakeholder can use the information within the toolkit for planning purposes and credibly justify initial their project route. Data should include information developed through state and federal planning efforts such as the DOE Westwide Energy Corridors.
- Identify agency state offices, field offices, district offices, etc. for each state.

**Integrated Interagency Pre-Application (IIP) Process:** An IIP process would provide a coordinated series of meetings and other steps that would take place prior to acceptance of a Federal agency of an application requiring review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal review and consultation requirements, such as section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Sections 7 and 10 of the Endangered Species Act. Do you believe that a robust IIP process could improve application quality, substantially reduce application review time, and address key siting obstacles early in the process?

- An IIP process would be valuable to provide the applicant early feedback on go and no-go alternatives; narrowing the alternatives in the NEPA phase.
- Create schedule certainty for developers/stakeholders/land agencies to develop thorough reviews in a comprehensive timeline; establishing expectations for all parties involved.
- Develop MOUs for agency state offices, field offices, district offices, etc.
- Develop pre-application submittal requirements and checklist.

- Develop accepted protocols and mitigation for sensitive species and ACECs.
- Standardized submittal documentation with early feedback on complete application. The documentation would then be used in the NEPA process, the public would have a clear rationale for proposed routes, as well as explanations for routes avoided.
- The IIP process should not extend the overall timeline, but create early discussions and feedback that decreases the time to a FEIS, while improving the quality of the outcome.

**State, Local, And Tribal Coordination and Collaboration:** How should the Federal government work more closely with state, local, and tribal governments? Are there regionally or sector-specific opportunities to work together to solve existing challenges?

- State, local and tribal governments should be engaged during the IIP stage to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Enter into MOUs that define responsibilities, timelines, and points of contact.
- Engage highest levels of government to address accountability and transparency. Monthly meetings with high level officials that puts pressure on meeting deadlines and addressing obstacles.
- Create regional technical teams from all levels of government that coordinate efforts and analyze study areas in concerted approach.
- States could act as single-point-of contact to engage local communities, stakeholders and respective state agencies.
- Early engagement of all parties could reduce opposition later, reducing delays and litigation after the Record of Decision is issued.
- Propose updated version of 2002 Siting Protocol signed by WGA Governors and Federal Agencies