



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING CONSIDERATIONS FOR LONG LINE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS IN THE WEST

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THREE MAJOR TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Permitting Requirements
- Developer Success
- Permitting Process



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PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

- Federal
- State
- Local



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FEDERAL PERMITS

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 – **NEPA**
- Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 – **RPA**
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 – **FLPMA**
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) – Section 368 West Wide Corridors



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STATE AND LOCAL PERMITTING CONSIDERATIONS

- State Siting Requirements (“Little NEPA”)
- County and City Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)
- Existing and Future Land Use
- Visual
- Land Values
- Local Economic Benefits



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DEVELOPER SUCCESS

- Integrity of Engineering Design
- Retaining Planning Flexibility
- Maximize Project Reliability and Line Rating
- Avoiding In-service Schedule Delays
- Minimize Project Cost
- Avoid Lengthy Legal Process
- Improved Public Image/Relations
- Approved Project



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PERMIT PROCESS

NEPA Guided Permitting Consideration

- Systematic and Repeatable Process
- Purpose and Need
- Reasonable Range of Alternatives
- Environmental Studies Based on Key Issues
- Public Involvement/Planning
- Agency Requirements



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SYSTEMATIC AND REPEATABLE PROCESS

- Understandable Purpose and Need
- Reasonable Range of Alternatives
- Appropriate Level of Inventory for All Alternatives
- Accurately Assess Impacts Based on Well-defined Criteria
- Realistic, Doable, and Effective Mitigation Commitments
- Decision Includes Environmental Results, Public and Agency Input, and Project Requirements
- Documents All Criteria Evaluation and Decision Methods and Results



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PURPOSE AND NEED

- Interstate versus Intrastate
- Agency versus Proponent
- Connected Action
- Multiple Lines



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REASONABLE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

- Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Evaluation (documentation)
- Alternatives Vigorously Explored and Evaluated
- System
- Locational
- Design
- Existing or Agency Designated Corridors



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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BASED ON KEY ISSUES

- Cultural Resources (Section 106)
- Biological Resources (Section 7)
- Visual
- Land Use
- Mitigation to Avoid, Eliminate, or Reduce Impacts
- Connected Action
- Cumulative Effects



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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/PLANNING

- Opportunity for Participation
- Early Involvement in Planning
- Documentation and Consideration in Decision Making
- Follow-through with Mitigation Commitments
- Include Local, State, Regional, and National Publics
 - Special Interest Groups
 - Landowners/Residents
 - Political Entities



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AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Regulatory Compliance
- Proposed Action (Right-of-Way Grant)
- Land Management Requirements
- Public Interest



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- Questions and comments



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