



Rapid Response Team- Transmission

Exploring the Business Link Opportunity:
Transmission & Clean Energy Development in the West
TRIBAL LEADER FORUM SERIES
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY, THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
REGARDING COORDINATION IN FEDERAL AGENCY REVIEW OF ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES ON FEDERAL LAND

I. PURPOSE

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (“Participating Agencies” or “Participating Agency,” as appropriate), enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expedite the siting and construction of qualified electric transmission infrastructure in the United States. As



Nine Agency MOU

- Improves uniformity, consistency, and transparency
 - Establishes the roles and responsibilities of the nine signatory agencies regarding electric transmission infrastructure project applicants
- Provides single point of contact for coordinating all federal authorizations required to locate electric transmission facilities on federal land
- Establishes DOE (under authority pursuant to section 216(h) of the FPA) as lead agency for coordinating all federal authorizations and related environmental reviews.

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INITIATIVES

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Interagency Rapid Response Team for Transmission

The Obama Administration is focused on building the infrastructure needed to support a clean energy economy because the countries that lead in clean energy will be the countries that lead the 21st century global economy. Electric transmission projects are one specific area where the Administration is acting to catalyze the transition to a clean energy economy. Building greater transmission infrastructure will facilitate, among other things, increased reliability, the greater integration of renewable sources of electricity into the grid; will accommodate a growing number of electric vehicles on America's roads; and will reduce the need for new power plants.

Background:

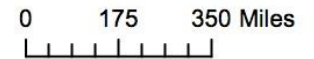
Transmission projects involve multiple Federal, state, and tribal agencies and are subject to a wide array of processes and procedural requirements for compliance. Delays in securing needed statutory reviews, permits, and consultations can threaten timely completion of these projects. Recognizing the need for Federal agencies to coordinate their efforts on transmission and to quickly respond to challenges, nine Federal agencies have been closely coordinating their review of electric transmission on Federal lands under a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed in 2009. Additionally, the President recently issued a Memorandum stating that

Rapid Response Team Pilot Projects

Transmission Lines

Project Name

- Boardman-Hemingway
- CAPX 2020 Hampton-Lacrosse
- Cascade Crossing
- Gateway West
- SunZia
- Susquehanna-Roseland
- TransWest Express



Last updated 9/20/2011



RRTT Goals

Goal = expedite federal evaluation of transmission applications

- Increase efficiency in administration of federal law
- Maintain effectiveness of federal law



RRTT: Increasing Efficiency

- Transform federal permitting to integrate all agencies into the same process
- Evaluate the projects with a perspective on the overall scope of the project





RRTT-Each Project

1. Coordinate all federal agencies
2. Identify federal approvals/reviews/consultations
3. Coordinate schedules
4. Designate nationwide agency teams
5. Train staff

RRTT-Each Project

1. Create dashboard - track progress
2. Regular meetings
3. Tracking of overall fed progress
4. Problems/delays addressed



Key DOE Contacts

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