

RAPID *Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop Toolkit*



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NREL/PR-6A20-67878

Public Service of Colorado Ponnequin Wind

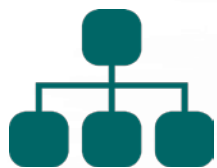
OBJECTIVES

- To provide easy access to federal and state-level hydropower permitting information and tools, including: statutes, regulations, permit applications, processes guidance, manuals, examples, contacts, and other relevant information
- To convene industry stakeholders from agencies and industry to validate the permitting process
- To work with all stakeholders to promote integration of hydropower licensing regulatory processes
- To facilitate communication—between project developers and agency personnel, among agencies at all jurisdictional levels, and among all project stakeholders, including the public.

OVERVIEW

The Hydropower RAPID Toolkit provides easy access to permitting information from one online location.

FEATURES



Regulatory Flowchart Library

A collection of regulatory roadmaps that outline the major requirements for developing renewable energy and bulk transmission projects



Reference Library

A collection of links to regulatory and permitting documents, regulations, and tools available on other websites.



Best Practices

A collection of best practices for efficiently permitting renewable energy and bulk transmission projects



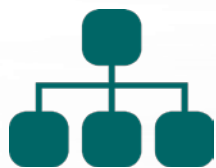
NEPA Database

A collection of document set and details from past NEPA analyses

OVERVIEW

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F E A T U R E S



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Best Practices

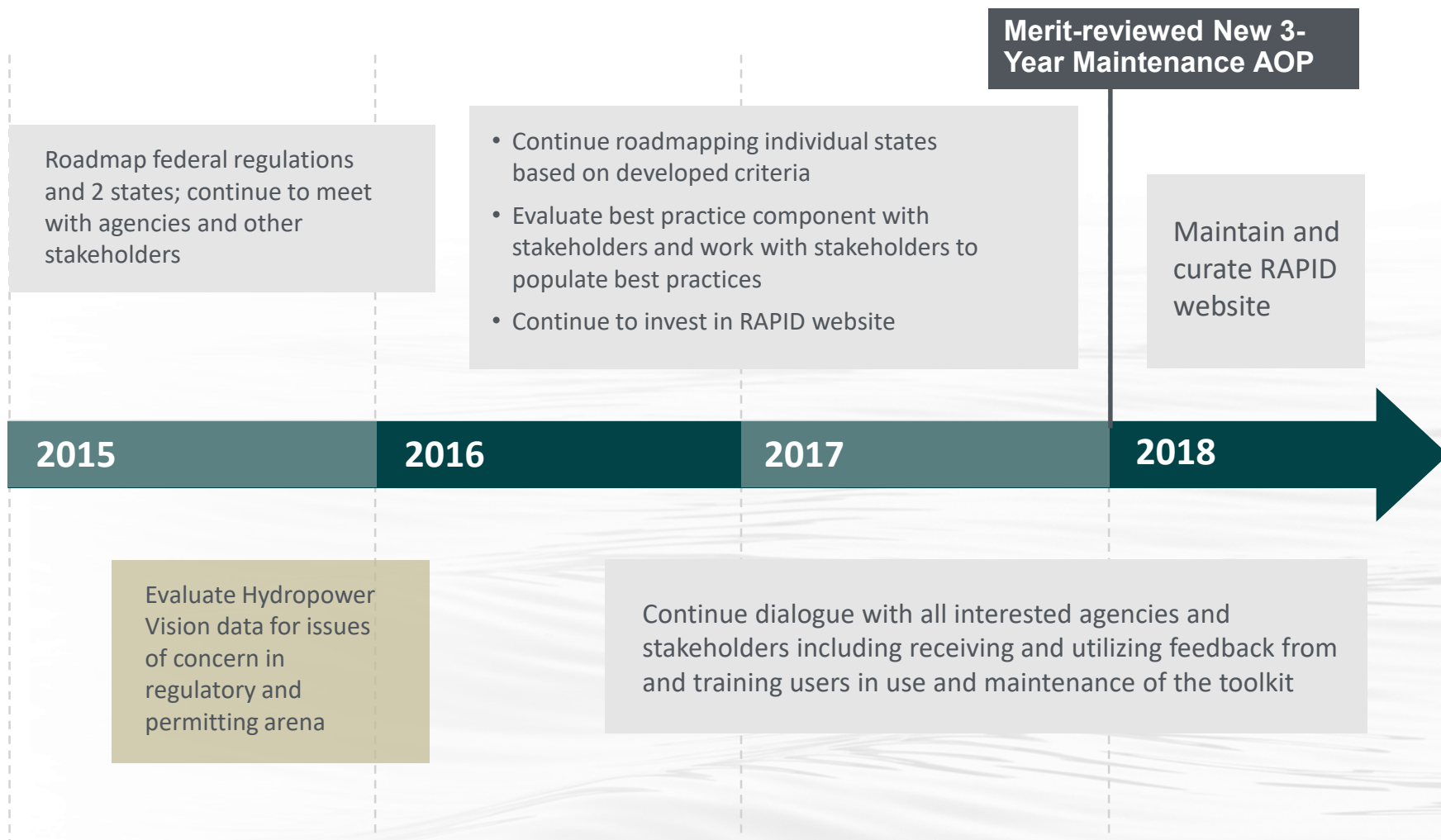
A collection of best practices for efficiently permitting renewable energy and bulk transmission projects



BENEFITS

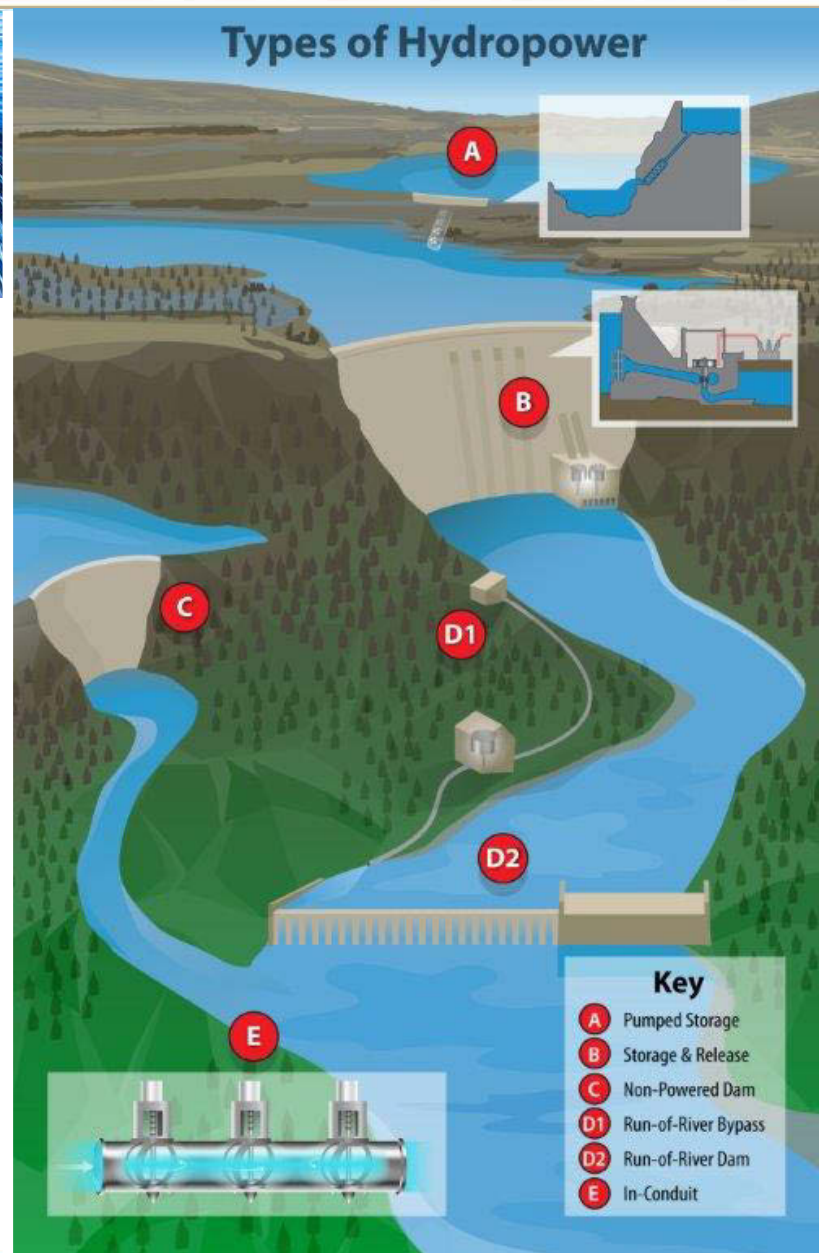
- Enhances permitting process transparency and understanding
- Facilitates communication among stakeholders, which can help reduce permitting time, lower total project costs, and reduce investor risk
- Saves agencies time previously spent explaining permitting processes to personnel and industry
- Helps in training new staff and in documenting procedures
- Enhances consistency among agencies with multiple offices
- Provides information for jurisdictions that have less experience with hydropower permitting regulations
- Decreases project risk by reducing delays and costs and eliminating uncertainties
- Encourages future hydropower development.

Hydropower RAPID Project Timeline



TECHNOLOGIES

The Hydropower RAPID Toolkit covers conventional hydropower dam licensing and re-licensing, as well as pumped storage and small hydropower projects.



TOPICS COVERED

- Topics represent the major regulatory requirements for project development
- The Environment process topic is further subdivided into areas of potential impact, mirroring the common sections of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report:

RAPID TOPICS

- Agency Land Use Planning
- Project Siting
- Land Access
- Construction and Transportation Permits
- Facility Licensing, Certification, Safety, and Regulation
- Transmission
- Environment Process
- Water Access & Water Rights

ENVIRONMENT SUBTOPICS

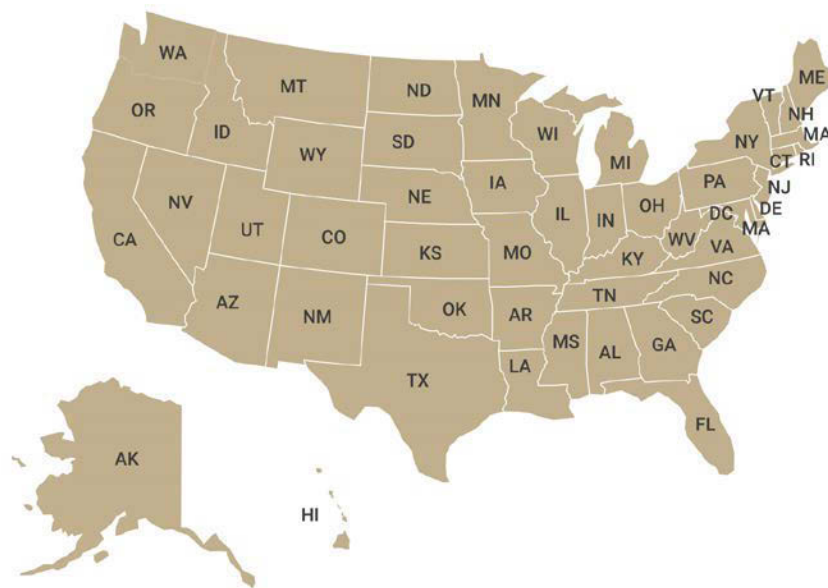
- Environmental Review
- On-Site Evaluation
- Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Pre-existing Land Use Assessment
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Geological Resources
- Aesthetic and Recreational Resources
- Waste & Hazardous Materials

Ways to Navigate

Topic

- Agency Land Use Planning
- Preliminary Site Considerations
- Land Access
- Construction and Transportation Permits
- Facility Licensing, Certification, Safety and Regulation
- Transmission Siting & Interconnection
- Environmental Process
- Water Access/Rights
- Facility Decommissioning

Jurisdiction



- **Alaska**
- **California**
- **Vermont**
- **Washington**
- **Colorado**
- **New York**

Agency

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Army Corp of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service

Collaborating on Regulatory Processes for Renewable Energy and Bulk Transmission Projects

The Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop (RAPID) Toolkit offers one location for agencies, developers, and industry stakeholders to work together on federal and state renewable energy and bulk transmission regulatory processes by using a wiki environment to share permitting guidance, regulations, contacts, and other relevant information.

Choose Your Project Type



Bulk Transmission
Regulations & Permitting



Geothermal
Regulations & Permitting



Hydropower
Regulations & Permitting



Solar
Regulations & Permitting

Don't see your technology?

Tools



[Regulatory Flowchart Library](#)



[Reference Library](#)



[Best Practices](#)



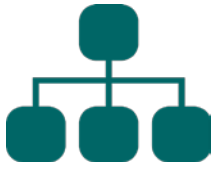
[NEPA Database](#)

CONTRIBUTE

Contributions help facilitate communication between developers and agency personnel at all jurisdiction levels. Use the feedback widget on each page to provide the RAPID Toolkit team updates or find out other ways to contribute here.

[Learn How to Contribute](#)

Category: RAPID Toolkit



**Regulatory
Flowchart
Library**

The **Regulatory Flowchart Library** is a set of flowcharts providing detailed information outlining the requirements for developing energy projects, including topics such as preliminary site considerations, land access, facility construction and operation, grid interconnection, water resource acquisition, and relevant environmental considerations.

Leads the developer through a set of questions identifying potential regulatory or permit approvals that may be triggered by development activities

Consists of flowcharts and supporting materials, including links to relevant regulations and documents.

Flowchart Narrative

3-FD-p.1 to 3-FD-p.6 – Will a Proposed Non-Federal Hydroelectric Project be a Conduit or a Dam?

There are distinct processes for BOR issuance of LOPPs for conduits and dams.

Conduit

LOPPs for BOR managed conduits are issued under the Section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 as amended for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity or other purposes (see FAC 04-08, Section 7.A.(2) and (3)).

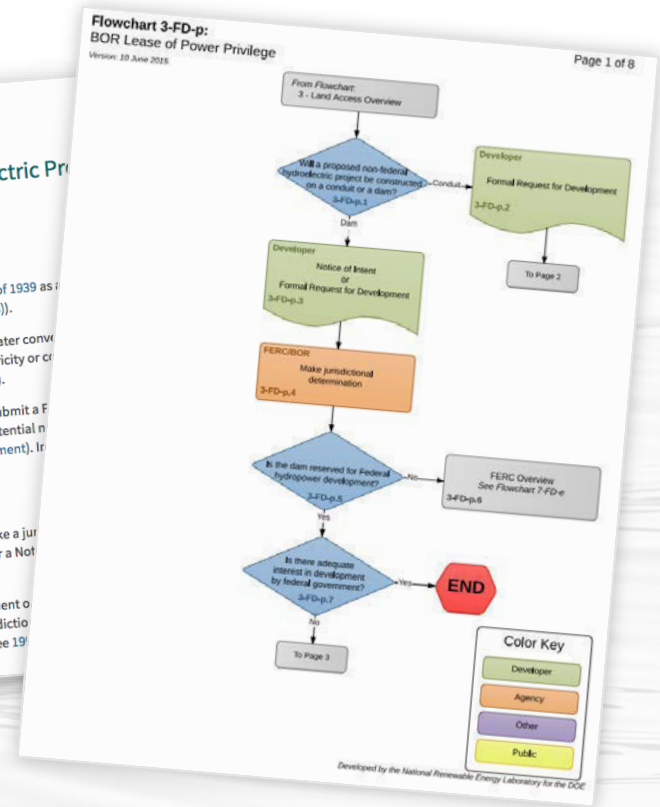
A Conduit is defined as “any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity or other purposes, or foundation via existing or proposed conveyance features” (43 U.S.C. § 485h(c)(9)(A)).

To begin the LOPP process for hydropower development on a BOR conduit, the developer must submit a Formal Request for Development (FRD) to the regional director from a potential site. An FRD is an “official letter to the regional director from a potential site to be initiated at a site or sites” (FAC 04-08, Section 3.C) (see e.g., LOPP Formal Request for Development). It is used to initiate this process with submittal of an FRD.

Dam

The LOPP process for hydropower development of BOR dams requires FERCBOR and the BOR to make a jurisdictional determination. The LOPP process for hydropower development on a BOR dam, the developer may submit either a Notice of Intent (NOI) or a Formal Request for Development (FRD) to the regional director from a potential site (see FAC 04-08, Section 7.A.(1)).

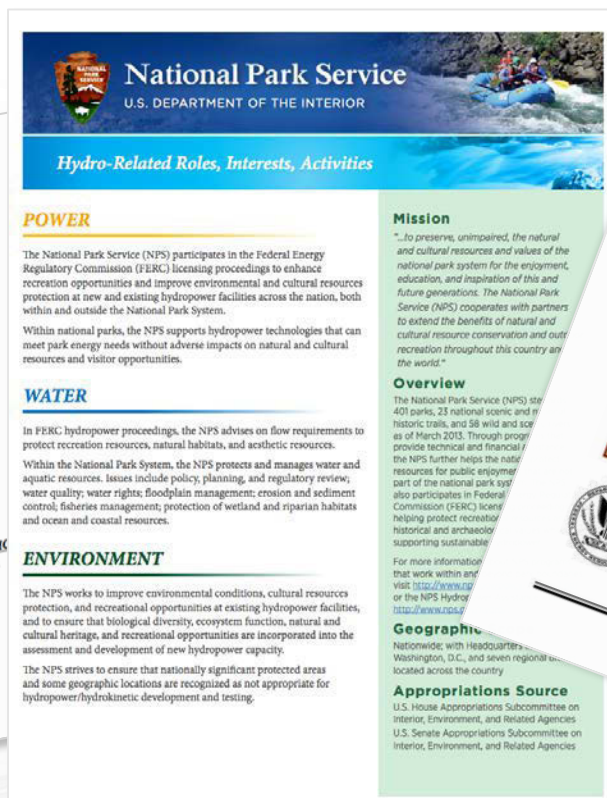
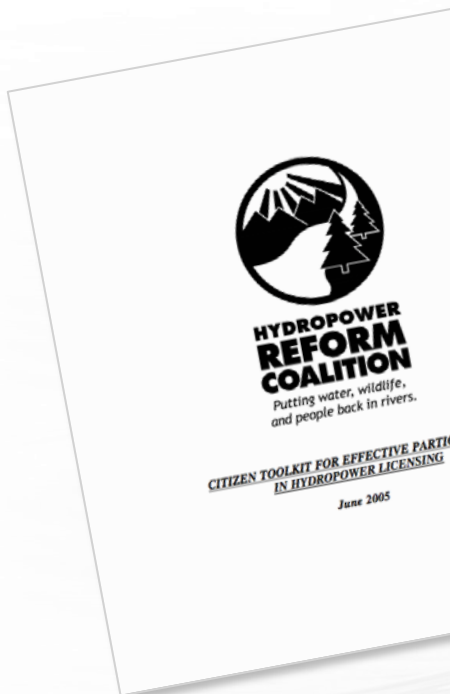
Under the 1992 MOU, FERCBOR will assert jurisdiction to license non-federal hydropower development on a BOR dam. FERCBOR will assert jurisdiction to license a facility of the proposed size under the Federal Power Act. FERCBOR does not have jurisdiction to license a facility that has been reserved for Federal hydropower development under reclamation law (see 1992 MOU, Section 2.1.1). If a facility has been reserved for Federal hydropower development under reclamation law (see 1992 MOU, Section 2.1.1), the developer will need to complete FERCBOR’s hydropower licensing process.





Reference Library

Reference Library assembles links to statutes, permit applications, process guidance, manuals, examples, contacts, and other regulatory and permitting documents that are publicly available on other websites. Users can search the library by topic, jurisdiction, or federal agency administering the process.






Best Practices provides a set of analyses outlining best practices, case studies, examples and templates for selected topics to provide useful insights into completing the regulatory process.


Coordinating Permit Offices and the Development of Utility-Scale Geothermal

Coordinated Approaches Reviewed In Detail




Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)

- Renewable energy projects
- Power Production only



Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP)

- Large project coordination
- No specific limitations



Bureau of Land Management

- Oil and gas projects on BLM-administered public lands
- Within the territorial jurisdiction of specific statutorily designated offices

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Best Practices

TITLE	TECHNOLOGY
Coordinating Permit Offices and the Development of Utility-Scale Geothermal Energy	Geothermal
Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for Interstate Transmission Projects	Bulk Transmission
Public Involvement for Transmission Projects	Bulk Transmission
NEPA and CEQA: Integrating State and Federal Environmental Reviews	All
NEPA and NHPA: A Handbook for Integrating NEPA and Section 106	All



The **NEPA Database** is a collection of documents and metadata for previously conducted NEPA analyses that can be used to inform future NEPA analyses. The database catalogs metadata for each project, such as: proposed activities, timelines, applications, reports and decision documents, impacted resources, and proposed and imposed mitigations for these resources.

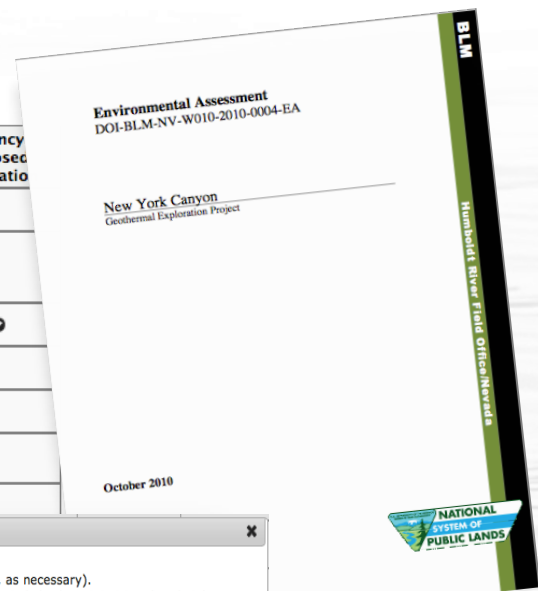
Resource Analysis

Resource	Not Present	Present, Not Affected	Present, Potentially Affected	Not Indicated	Comment	Applicant Proposed Mitigation	Agency Imposed Mitigation
Air Quality			✓			✓	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	✓						
Cultural Resources			✓				✓
Environmental Justice	✓						
Floodplains	✓						
Invasive, Nonnative Species			✓			✓	
Migratory Birds			✓			✓	
Native American Concerns			✓				

Air Quality: Applicant Proposed Mitigation ✕

Post and enforce speed limits to reduce fugitive dust (speed limit of 15 miles per hour, as necessary).
Apply dust abatement techniques (such as watering, requiring loader buckets to be emptied slowly, minimizing drop heights, etc.) to earthmoving, excavating, trenching, and grading activities.

Minimize equipment and vehicle idling times during construction activities.



MOVING FORWARD

- Success of the RAPID Toolkit depends on the continued active participation of industry and agency personnel.
- Feedback from stakeholders helps to identify the greatest need and has the largest impact on making the permitting process more transparent .
- The toolkit's wiki platform and feedback widget allow industry and agencies to help maintain the content so that it continues to provide relevant and accurate information to its users in the future.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Provide Feedback

- Provide website interface feedback
- Review and provide feedback on content – update contact information, flowcharts, and narratives

Help Spread the Word

- Share with others in your organization/agency
- Discuss with superiors to encourage adoption and maintenance (agencies)
- Increase awareness among agency personnel and other developers by asking them to use and help maintain.

Use the Website

- Print out or download and use at meetings with industry/agencies
- Use as a tool for conversations with applicants and other agencies
- Incorporate information into training for new staff.

Support RAPID (Agencies)

- Watch relevant pages – you will receive emails about any modifications
- Conduct annual review of relevant content – has your agency had any procedural changes in the past year that should be indicated?

The Hydropower RAPID Team



Other RAPID Partners



Thank You

For questions or
comments,
please contact:

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Stay in touch with all Hydropower
RAPID Toolkit developments.

rapidtoolkit.org

Public Service of Colorado Ponnequin Wind Farm



A SPECIAL THANKS

RAPID Content Developers:

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