

Overview of Environmental Permit Streamlining Efforts in Washington State and Nationwide

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Objectives of Review

- Describe streamlining initiatives in Washington and other states
- Identify successful projects in other states that could be implemented in Washington
- Determine management-related success factors that foster effective streamlining
- Identify options for future audits and/or evaluations

What is Environmental Permit Streamlining?

- Expedited transportation project delivery while being good stewards of the environment
- Streamlining Components:
 - Reduced Time
 - Reduced Cost
 - Maintain or Improve Environmental Performance

Streamlining Categories

- Proactive Regulatory Affairs Activities
- Process Re-engineering
- Agency Resources
- Technology
- Time Management

Washington State Review

- Interviews with Transportation Agencies:
 - WSDOT Environmental Services
 - Washington State Ferries
 - Washington State Rail
 - US DOT Federal Highway Administration

Washington State Review

- Interviews with Resource Agencies:
 - Washington Department of Ecology
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - US Environmental Protection Agency
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
 - WSDOT Northwest Region MAP Team

Washington State Review: Successes

- Development and integration of proactive environmental systems, procedures, and tools
- Cross-agency buy-in of new environmental management approaches

Washington State Review: Successes

- Interagency cooperative agreements
 - Dispute resolution
 - Information sharing
 - Communication
- WSDOT Multi-Agency Permitting (MAP) Team
- WSDOT liaison program

Washington State Review: Successes

- On-line Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA)
- Programmatic permitting for maintenance and operations activities
- WSDOT Environmental GIS Workbench
- TPEAC activities encouraged individual agencies to start additional streamlining initiatives

Survey of Other States

- Survey streamlining developed or implemented by other State DOTs
- Assess management successes for lessons learned that could be applied in Washington

Survey of Other States

- Focus Group of 10 State DOTs

California

Ohio

Florida

Oregon

Louisiana

Pennsylvania

Minnesota

Texas

North Carolina

Utah

Survey of Other States

- 14 Additional State DOTs

Alaska

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Maine

Mississippi

Missouri

Nevada

New Hampshire

Oklahoma

South Carolina

Tennessee

Virginia

Wisconsin

Other States: Successes

- Development and integration of proactive environmental systems, procedures, and tools
- Cross-agency buy-in of new environmental management approaches

Other States: Successes – Data Quality

- Standardize data systems
- Use best-available scientific information to limit project field survey work
- Make preliminary environmental assessments in association with project scoping

Other States: Successes – Management

- Create quality-improvement teams
- Re-design project-delivery processes
- Assess project risks continuously in terms of cost, scope, and schedule

Other States: Successes – Efficiency

- Secure consistent legislative commitment to streamlining initiatives within natural resource agencies
- Purchase right-of-way for environmental mitigation in advance of need
- Provide internships at FHWA headquarters for DOT staff

Other States: Management Success Factors

- Sense of urgency
- Strong support from Executive and Legislative Branches

Review Conclusions

- Washington State is a national leader in permit streamlining
 - Compares favorably with other advanced streamlining programs
 - Review identifies initiatives with positive outcomes
 - Some activities are too new to evaluate
 - Successful efforts in other states may hold promise for Washington

Washington JLARC Study

- Report is available on-line and can be downloaded at:

<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/reports/05-4.pdf>