A Starter on Siting

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Today’s presentation is all about my opinions, not NARUC policy or any of its members. Hopefully my opinions are mostly in agreement with those.

NARUC & Grants & Research

- NARUC members are the State PUCs that regulate investor-owned utilities
  - [http://www.naruc.org](http://www.naruc.org)
- G&R Dept. addresses research and facilitates dialogue on key questions facing Commissions
- Partnerships with FCC, NCS, FERC, private sector, non-governmental orgs
Summary

- What do we site?
- Who sites them?
- What are the main processes?
- What do we look for?
- What’s new?
- Crazy stories / case studies
- Your Q and A
What do we site?

- Power plants (except nuclear)
- Delivery (bulk transmission)
- Distribution and supporting facilities
- Gas pipelines
Siting depends on *what* you’re siting
Resources

- Gas
- Nuclear
- Coal
- Hydro
Where we’ve been

Capacity Brought Online by Fuel Type and Average Plant Size 1950-2007

Source: Vantyx/Global Energy Decisions
Updated: 1/08
Transmission in North America
Many steps to planning and building a project

- Conceptualizing and determining market for project
- Project planning and control
- **Licensing and permits**
- Conceptual engineering
- Detailed design
- Material procurement
- Construction contracts
- Construction management
- Engineering completion
Permitting

• Federal
• State
• Local
  – Building code, zoning compliance, vehicle use permits, etc.
• Peculiarities for interstate projects
Federal permitting

- Fish and Wildlife: Birds & endangered species
- EPA and Corps of Engineers: water-related permits, superfund, NEPA review and EIS
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: NHPA
- FAA: permits structures over 200 ft.
- Federally managed lands (i.e. BLM, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs)
- DoD: EM interference and other issues
Multiple agencies share oversight of siting (7)
Non-PUC agency has primary siting authority (2)
Multi-agency siting board (8)
PUC has primary siting authority (28)
No regularized oversight of siting (6)

Source: EEI, Transmission Line Siting Regulations 2001, updated by J. McGarvey
State Infrastructure Siting

• All commissions have some role in siting, even if indirect
  • Generation
  • Transmission
  • Inside the “city gates” gas infrastructure
  • Demand-side programs
  – Local role in some states
  – Siting Boards
  – Quasi-judicial proceedings
    • Evidentiary hearings, site visits, conditional approvals, and ultimately a certificate of public convenience and necessity

• State environmental, natural resources, historic preservation, special transportation permitting often coordinated with CPCN

• Process can take 30 days or several years.
Interstate siting

• 14 interstate projects have been built since 2000; 668 miles over 230 KV
• Congestion areas, transmission corridors, and the EPAct 2000 provisions on FERC backstop siting authority
What do we look for?

• Facility review and alternatives
• Route review and alternatives
• Considerations of impacts to:
  – Need, benefits, and impacts for the facility
  – Environmental impacts
    • Air
    • Water
    • Habitat / wildlife
  – Community impacts
    • Health
    • Noise
    • Visual and other community impacts
    • Electromagnetic fields
    • Sensitive communities
The basic process

- Pre-petition work
- Petition filing and review
- Discovery and hearings
- Deliberation
- Decision and issuance of an order
A Few Illustrative Cases

- Canal 2
- Holcomb
- Cross-Sound
- Cape Wind
- Stateline
I Will Now Confront Your Most Challenging Questions!

Or! Later if you prefer!

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