

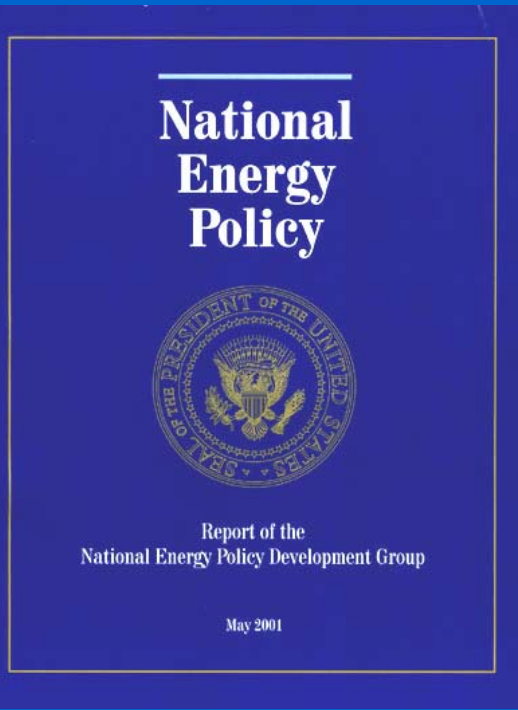


Virginia (VA) Stephens
Director, White House Task Force on
Energy Project Streamlining
Associate Director of Energy &
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White House Task Force

- Recommendation of the National Energy Policy
- Established by Executive Order #13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) of May 18, 2001
- Chaired by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

National Energy Policy



“The National Energy Policy Development Group recommends that the President issue an Executive Order to rationalize permitting for energy production in an environmentally sound manner by directing federal agencies to expedite permits and other federal actions necessary for energy-related project approvals on a national basis.”

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Executive Order 13212 (1)

“There is established an interagency task force to monitor and assist the agencies in their efforts to expedite their review of permits or similar actions, as necessary, to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects, increase energy production and conservation, and improve transmission of energy.”

Executive Order 13212 (2)

“The Task Force also shall monitor and assist agencies in setting up appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal, and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected.”

✓ *The Task Force has successfully implemented the actions called for in Executive Order #13212.*

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“Core” Federal Permitting Agencies

- Department of Agriculture*
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Energy*
 - Department of Interior*
 - Department of State
 - Department of Transportation
 - Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Agency Supplied Full-time Representative to Task Force

Guiding Principles

- Expedite and coordinate decision-making in an “outcome neutral” fashion.
- Operate openly and inclusively with all interested parties
- Identify, recognize and seek to replicate effectively integrated interagency decision-making processes already in existence.

Task Force Organization

- Five Experts from Key Agencies
- Regular Meetings between CEQ Chairman and Agency Deputy Secretaries
- Regular Communication with Policy Liaisons at Agencies
- Internal Working Groups at Key Agencies

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Functional Areas

- Exploration & Production
- Electricity Generation
- Transmission
- Pipelines
- Hydropower
- Nuclear
- Renewables & Conservation
- Refineries
- Offshore

Request for Public Comment

- Federal Register Notice (August 20, 2001)
 - Initial Request for information regarding:
 - Major energy-related projects
 - General process comments or suggestions
 - Kept comment period open for two months
 - Received -
 - About 120 total submissions
 - About half specific projects submitted
 - About half general comments submitted
 - All comments posted on website

Stakeholder Meetings

- “Open Houses” Meetings – Fall 2001
 - Hosted 34 organizations
- Numerous meetings, work groups, conferences, workshops, site visits, in D.C. and across the country

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NEPA-Specific

- NEPA – “it’s not the act, it’s the actor”
- Cooperating agency guidance memo
- All NEPA-specific comments forwarded to CEQ’s NEPA Task Force looking at modernizing NEPA across the board

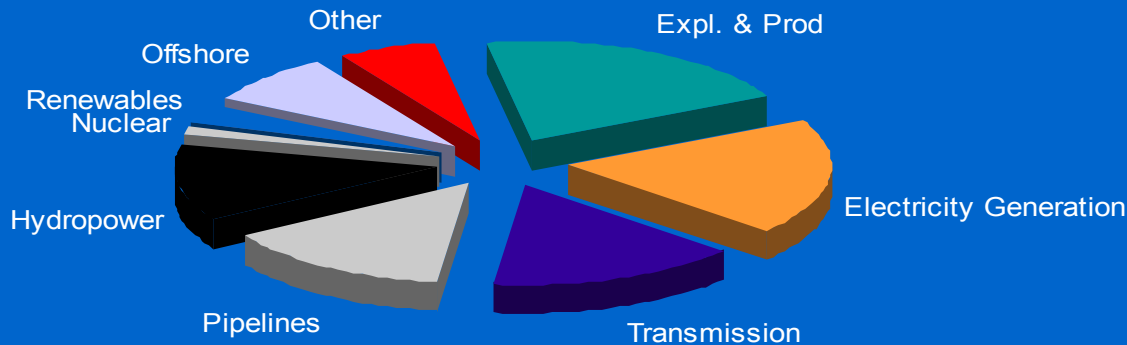
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Continuum of Efforts

- Specific Projects
- General, Systematic Changes
 - mostly internal process or regulatory
- Statutory Recommendations – very few needed

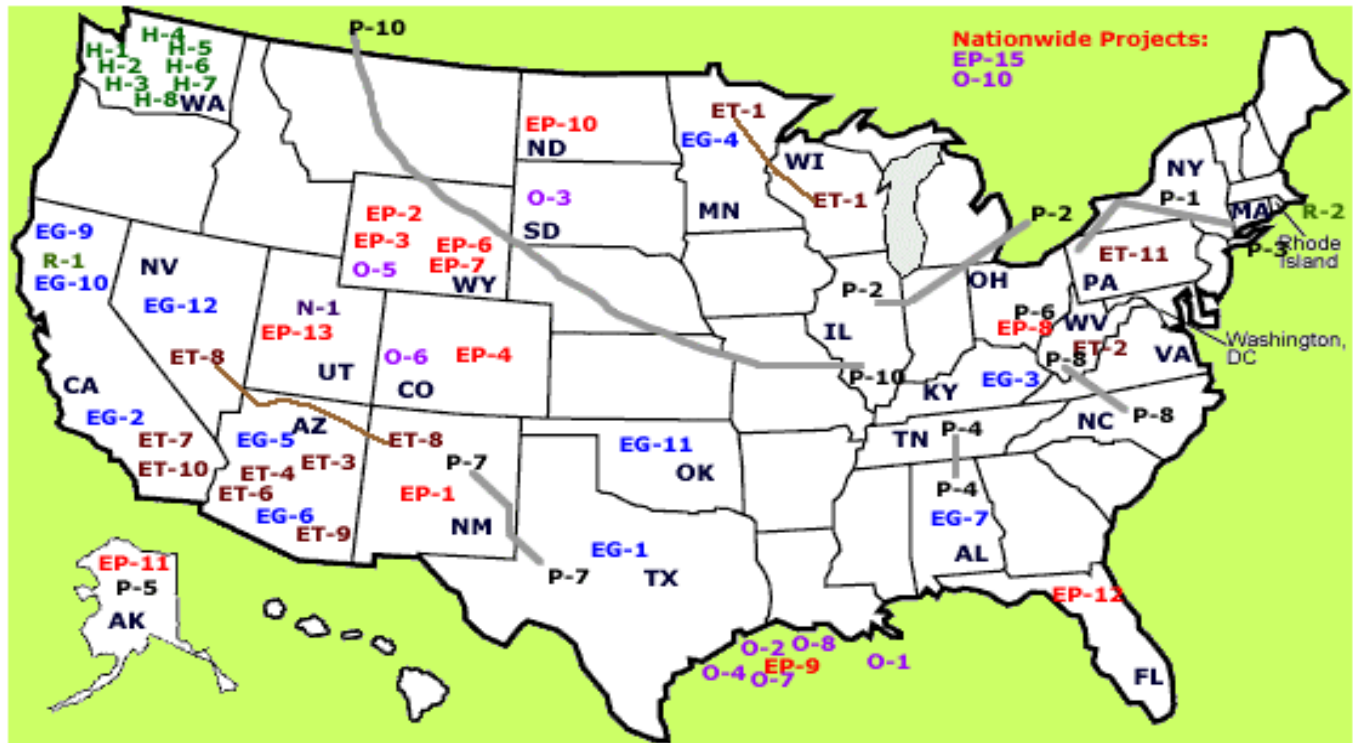
Submitted Projects: Functional Areas

- Exploration & Production (13)
- Electricity Generation (12)
- Transmission (10)
- Pipelines (9)
- Hydropower (8)
- Nuclear (1)
- Renewables (2) & Conservation
- Refineries
- Offshore (5)
- Other (4)



Last Updated: September 20, 2002

Submitted Projects



Project Status Categories

- **Completed (8):**
projects received permits or were otherwise completed during Task Force term
- **Active (39):**
monitoring & facilitation most appropriate; primary Task Force focus
- **Not Ripe for Task Force Effort (8):** permits had not yet been filed
- **Also:** informational (5); suspended or withdrawn (3); in litigation or appeals (2)

Process Improvements (1)

- Interagency Agreement for Natural Gas Pipelines (signed May 2002)
 - Task Force worked with FERC and other federal agencies to draft agreement
 - Agencies currently negotiating implementation plan
- Interagency Group on Crossborder Issues
 - Task Force facilitated discussions to clarify agencies' roles and necessary NEPA or other law clarification for permitting crossborder projects
 - Prepared document describing roles

Process Improvements (2)

- Proposed Legislation for Authorizing Certain Offshore Facilities
 - Task Force facilitated DOI's drafting of legislation to address several issues that have been raised in permitting energy-related projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
- Streamlining DOI Administrative Appeals Process
 - Task Force worked with the DOI to help draft and implement strategic and tactical plans that would eliminate a backlog of cases and set appropriate time limits on the appeals process

Process Improvements (3)

- Major Right-of-Way Workshop (“ROW 101”)
 - Task Force worked closely with BLM to develop an interagency workshop to be held in October 2002
- DOI and USDA Land Use Planning Efforts
 - Task Force facilitated communication among federal land managing agencies to coordinate and update land use planning efforts

Coordination with WGA

- Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Development (signed August 2001)
- Revising 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study
- Transmission Siting Protocol (signed June 2002)

State Government Coordination

- Northern Rocky Mountains Energy Policy Group: Pilot Project
 - Task Force proposed this proactive approach to identification of energy issues in July 2002
 - Modeled after Columbia River Basin Policy Group
- Identify Best State Practices
 - Task Force working with National Governors' Association, Environmental Council of States, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to identify effective approaches to streamlining energy permitting processes

Observations

- Need for more consistency across regional/field offices
- Need for deadlines and improved coordination of the NEPA review process
- Need to designate lead agency with authority to coordinate multiple permitting processes
- Need to better coordinate early with state and local permitting entities

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Contact Information

Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining

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