

Findings Document

Scope

The Impediments to Siting on Federal and Tribal Lands Work Group will begin with RESOLVE compiling the reports from recent workshops and task force meetings that have focused on these impediments. RESOLVE will compile existing research, reports and workshop proceedings into a single statement of findings. Other sources of information will include interviews with workgroup identified stakeholders, and the existing regulatory framework. The document must include the work of the White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining. The document will analyze existing documents and synthesize the impediments to siting geothermal development on Federal and Tribal lands, then summarize recommended actions from those reports. The report will consolidate all findings and comments, but will specifically address environmental issues and tribal interests and values on federal and tribal lands. The report will also distinguish, identify and address issues related to the siting and development of geothermal resources on tribal lands. The report will identify the benefits and shortcomings of the current leasing and permitting processes.

Purpose

The Work Group anticipates using the report as the basis for convening a workshop or series of workshops to explore the problems in geothermal leasing and permitting on federal lands, and for resources located on Tribal Lands, and refine the options for improving the leasing and permitting process (looking specifically for options that advance all interests). If the workshop(s) produce consensus recommendations that serve the interests of all stakeholders, the Work Group will compile those recommendations and submit them to the NGC for full membership adoption. The NGC will disseminate consensus recommendations and reports to policy-making bodies and all interested stakeholder groups.

Definitions:

Federal lands was the term adopted by the group for use in this project. As distinct from public lands (subject to BLM jurisdiction), Federal lands are defined as those lands subject to federal jurisdiction (including DOD, USFS and BLM).

Access

For the purposes of this paper, access issues are defined as those that are pre-leasing and leasing related. Under this rubric, access issues include (but are not limited to) administrative delays and or/duplicative efforts; issues pertaining to interagency coordination and planning; legislative and/or regulatory matters; and environmental and socio-cultural impacts relating to planning and leasing in the departments of Interior, Agriculture and Defense.

Siting

For the purposes of this paper, siting is defined as that which relates directly to post-lease permitting- the physical, or pending actions on the ground including all environmental review processes.