

# **Performance Improvement in the Review and Permitting of Renewable Energy Infrastructure Projects**

## **The Department of Defense's Plan**

### **Introduction**

In July 2010 the Department of Defense (DoD) created a new and innovative office to assess and address the potential impacts of renewable energy infrastructure development on military test, training, and operations. The DoD Siting Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) works closely with industry, other Federal agencies, and State, Indian tribal, and local governments to promote the compatible development of renewable energy and transmission projects. The Clearinghouse works to maintain the capabilities needed to defend the nation, including our surveillance network and our irreplaceable test and training ranges.

DoD strongly supports the development of renewable energy and is a recognized leader in the use of solar, geothermal, wind, and other renewable sources. More broadly, the development of renewable clean energy can improve national security by reducing our country's dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating the effects of global climate change.

The Department of Defense believes that it can and must minimize the occurrence of incidents where DoD's mission needs conflict with the development of renewable energy. Although individual conflicts may be unavoidable, the country should not and does not have to choose between national security and the development of renewable energy. This plan is a part of DoD's effort to promote the development of renewable energy while protecting America's vital national security interests.

Executive Order 13604, *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects*, directs Federal departments and agencies to institutionalize best practices, reduce the time required to make Federal permitting and review decisions, and improve environmental and community outcomes in the planning and implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects. Federal departments and agencies worked closely together in recent months to better coordinate their project review processes with the goal of vastly speeding up the Federal permitting process. Federal departments and agencies share this responsibility with State and local governments, project sponsors, and other stakeholders with vital roles in permit decision-making and reviews of infrastructure projects. DoD believes that national security is significantly enhanced through safer, more secure, reliable, and capable infrastructure.

While DoD (outside of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and its civil works functions) is not a major permitting or regulatory agency,<sup>1</sup> it plays a number of roles in the development of infrastructure projects:

- DoD reviews infrastructure projects proposed on or near DoD installations, ranges and military controlled airspace in the light of potential adverse impact to national security.
- DoD is directly interested in projects developed on our installations and benefits from the development of new and improved renewable energy technologies.
- DoD is the steward of nearly 29 million acres of Federal lands and the cultural and natural resources on those lands. As such, DoD reviews projects to ensure the protection and conservation of those resources in accordance with Federal law and policy.

This plan specifically addresses DoD's first role – assuring the protection of the national security of the United States. This plan addresses the development of energy infrastructure, including the construction of renewable energy projects and supporting bulk power transmission systems. The recent boom in the development of renewable energy technologies and attendant transmission systems, especially in the western United States, presents new and unique challenges to protecting DoD-unique military capabilities. These capabilities include the capacity to test and evaluate military weapons and sensor systems, monitor the skies for threats, and train personnel. To this end, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics established the Clearinghouse in accordance with congressional direction with the goals of protecting national security while promoting a transparent, timely, and predictable review process for potential air obstructions, including energy infrastructure projects.<sup>2</sup>

Project proponents, other Federal agencies, state, Indian tribal, and local governments, and other stakeholders strongly support the national defense mission in instances where negative impacts of renewable energy projects on the military mission are identified. Since 2010 the Clearinghouse review of nearly a thousand renewable energy and associated bulk power transmission projects cleared 96% of them as having little or no impact on DoD's test, training, and operational capabilities and capacities. The Clearinghouse's streamlined review process significantly reduced the amount of time required by the DoD Components<sup>3</sup> to complete their internal reviews and coordination. Implementation of the best practices and specific actions described in this plan will continue that record of success and support, and create a more transparent, more predictable, and better performing review process. This will maintain the confidence of stakeholders, improve engagement with project sponsors, and reduce project review timelines while protecting the national security of the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> The role of the US Army Corps of Engineers as a permitting agency is addressed in a separate plan.

<sup>2</sup> The Clearinghouse opened for business on June 15, 2010, and the Secretary of Defense issued policy guidance establishing a Senior Officer, Senior Official, and a lead organization on July 15, 2011. See: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dodsc/library/secdef-appt-ltr-15-07-111.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The DoD Components include the Military Departments, Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies, and DoD Field Activities.

## **Background -- Mission and Statutory Authorities**

### **Mission Overview**

A mission of the Clearinghouse is to prevent, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on military operations, readiness, and test missions caused by renewable energy projects. The Clearinghouse is the single point of contact for all DoD activities related to the siting of energy generation and bulk power transmission projects. In directing the creation of the Clearinghouse in 2011, Congress provided specific authority that refined the way DoD responds to project proposals.

The Clearinghouse is neither a regulatory nor permitting agency of energy infrastructure projects. All the reviews and processes described in this plan are advisory only to the cognizant permitting and regulatory agencies, and to the Secretary of Defense in the development of official DoD positions on infrastructure project proposals.

### **Statutory and Delegated Authorities and Guidance<sup>4</sup>**

The Clearinghouse functions under the following statutory and delegated authorities:

- Section 358 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, Public Law 111-383, January 7, 2011 (Section 358), as amended by The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, Public Law 112-81, December 31, 2011 (Section 331). This is the underlying authority establishing the Clearinghouse.
- Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Designation of a Senior Officer, Senior Official, and Lead Organization for a DoD Mission Compatibility Evaluation Process,” July 15, 2011. This delegates authorities within DoD relating to participation in the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) air obstruction review process and management of the Clearinghouse.
- Part 211 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations “Mission Compatibility Evaluation Process”. This Interim Rule establishes procedures for review by DoD of applications submitted to the FAA relating to potential air obstructions, of informal reviews of such projects, of the management and operation of the Clearinghouse, and other matters. A Final Rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in the Fall of 2012.
- Section 44718 of Title 49, United States Code, “Structures interfering with air commerce”. This section of FAA authority creates the process that section 358 largely relates to.

---

<sup>4</sup> These documents are available on the Clearinghouse web site at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dodsc/>

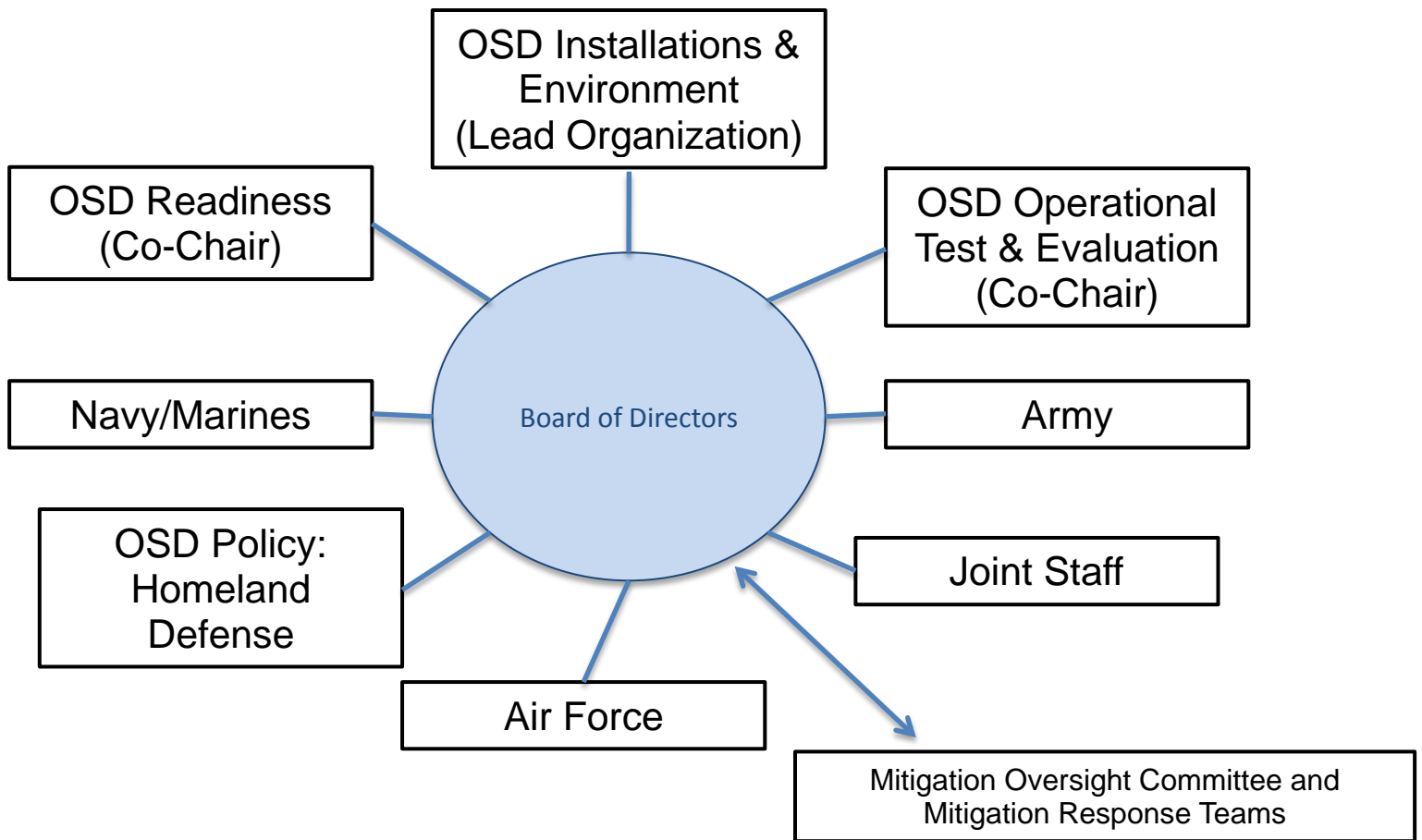
## Organization

The Clearinghouse is part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and is led by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, who serves as the Chair of a Board of Directors (Board) that sets policy and oversees the operations of the Clearinghouse. The Board is co-chaired by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness) and the Principal Deputy Director, Operational Test and Evaluation.

Additional members of the Board include:

- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment;
- The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, who also represents the United States Marine Corps;
- The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Logistics;
- The Vice Director of Strategic Plans and Policies, Joint Staff (J5);
- The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and America's Security Affairs; and
- Other ad hoc members at the direction of the chair and co-chairs.

The Clearinghouse has an Executive Director, who also chairs a Mitigation Oversight Committee. This Committee is co-chaired by officials designated by the Board Co-chairs. The Mitigation Oversight Committee is comprised of a senior staff representative from each member of the Board. Its function is to oversee and coordinate the review of projects and the mitigation of impacts identified from those projects. It accomplishes this through the establishment of Mitigation Response Teams whose membership varies in accordance with the impact upon military missions. The figure on the next page illustrates how the Clearinghouse and its Board are organized to implement the review of infrastructure projects for the potential for adverse impact to mission effectiveness.



**Figure 1. DoD Siting Clearinghouse Organization**

### Permitting and Reviews

The Clearinghouse has no regulatory authority in permitting energy infrastructure projects and generally serves in an advisory role to the infrastructure permitting and regulatory agencies. In addition, the Clearinghouse may request Cooperating Agency status in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) action relating to renewable energy or energy transmission projects. In this capacity, the role of the Clearinghouse is to:

- Coordinate review of projects for mission impacts among the DoD Components,
- Compile and coordinate project review findings under the auspices of the Mitigation Oversight Committee, and
- Oversee, support, and coordinate engagement with project proponents and regulatory/permitting agencies by Component-led Mitigation Response Teams.

Mitigation Response Teams conduct detailed analyses of mission impacts and develop mitigation alternatives. Section 358 specifically requires DoD to “...identify any feasible and affordable actions that could be taken in the immediate future by the Department, the developer

of such project, or others to mitigate such adverse impact and to minimize risks to national security while allowing such projects to proceed with development...” when conducting a review of a proposed project. These teams function under this guidance and the understanding that in some cases mitigation may be technologically or physically impossible. In cases where impact analysis reveals that no mitigation is possible, or where mitigation negotiations fail, Mitigation Response Teams develop recommendations concerning official DoD objections to a project. These recommendations are reviewed and coordinated by the Mitigation Oversight Committee and the Board, and are forwarded through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for a determination as to whether the project would result in an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States. Should the Deputy Secretary of Defense determine that a formal objection to a developer’s proposed renewable energy project is required, the Deputy Secretary would forward the objection and rationale to the Secretary of Transportation for determination of a hazard to navigation.

## **DoD Review Processes**

### **Project Review Timelines**

The timelines for Clearinghouse review and comment on projects are published in the Interim Rule. This rule is currently under revision for publication as a Final Rule. Timelines in the Final Rule will remain the same as listed below. Timelines are tracked and reported using the Mission Compatibility Analysis Tool (MCAT) described below. The specific processes followed during these times are discussed in Internal Clearinghouse Processes below. The timelines in the Interim Rule include:

- Formal Reviews:
  - 30 days for initial project evaluation,
  - 5 days for project proponents to respond to a request for mitigation negotiation,
  - 90 days for mitigation negotiation (extendable as required), and
  - 30 days for notification of Congress in the case of a finding of unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States.
  
- Informal Reviews:
  - Within 5 days of receipt of a request for an informal review the Clearinghouse must task reviews of the proposal by affected DoD Components,
  - 30 days for the DoD Components to complete their review, and
  - 50 days (including the 5 and 30 day suspenses above) for the Clearinghouse to provide a response to the requestor.

## **Internal Clearinghouse Processes**

The Clearinghouse established procedures for review of projects in the Interim Rule. Those processes include both formal reviews conducted to meet the requirements of the FAA Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) program as authorized in 49 USC § 44718, and informal reviews that are conducted at the request of a project proponent or a state or local government official. DoD applies these same procedures and processes to all renewable energy and bulk power transmission projects reviewed under any Federal permitting or regulatory authority.

### **Formal Reviews**

Formal reviews are conducted internally within DoD and include evaluation of classified missions and capabilities when applicable. When a project proposal is received under the OE/AAA program or through some other regulatory process, the Clearinghouse distributes all available project information to all appropriate DoD Components, and enters that same information into the MCAT database (see Information Technology below for a full description of the functions and uses of this tool). Each Component conducts its own independent review, using procedures appropriate to the affected mission. The Clearinghouse support team also conducts an independent analysis and provides a recommendation of DoD position to the Executive Director. Once all analyses are complete, the Clearinghouse compiles them and coordinates a single DoD position under the auspices of the Mitigation Oversight Committee. These actions all happen within 30 days.

The Clearinghouse notifies the appropriate permitting/regulatory agency (or agencies) of DoD analysis results and position if there is no likelihood of an adverse impact to the national security. When adverse mission impact is identified, the Clearinghouse also notifies the project proponent and requests mitigation negotiation. The proponent has five days to respond to this request.

If the proponent agrees to negotiate, a Mitigation Response Team (MRT) is formed and a 90-day detailed project analysis and mitigation negotiation phase (extendable as required) begins. In the case of successful mitigation negotiations, the Clearinghouse coordinates a review and approval of the mitigation agreement by the Mitigation Oversight Committee. The recommended mitigations are then reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, and implemented by the project proponent and/or the responsible DoD Component.

Where technical mitigations are possible, Section 358 authorizes DoD to accept voluntary contributions of funds by project proponents to offset the cost for DoD-implemented mitigation. This is a new and innovative authority that provides unique flexibility in finding solutions to complex issues. This authority is discussed further in the “Share in Costs” section below.

If the project proponent declines negotiation, mitigation negotiations are unsuccessful, or the MRT determines that no feasible and affordable technical or operational mitigation is possible, the Mitigation Response Team may make a recommendation to the Clearinghouse Board of Directors for a finding of unacceptable risk. If the Board approves the recommendation, the action moves to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, which may forward the package to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for determination. If the Deputy Secretary finds that the project will pose an unacceptable risk, the Clearinghouse delivers the finding to the appropriate regulatory or permitting agencies, the project proponent, and other stakeholders. Section 358 also requires that Congress be notified of any such findings within 30 days.

### **Informal Reviews**

Informal Reviews may be requested by a project proponent or a state or local government official. An informal review includes a 50-day review and initial analysis by the Clearinghouse and the DoD Components. The Clearinghouse notifies the requestor of the results and requests impact mitigation discussions if needed. This is done in the hope of accelerating the formal review process later. When appropriate, the Clearinghouse and Mitigation Oversight Committee task a Mitigation Response Team to lead mitigation discussions.

### **Department of the Interior - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leases**

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness (Readiness) represents the Clearinghouse on Outer Continental Shelf matters and leads DoD participation in the Offshore Wind Task Force process administered by BOEM and the coastal states. DoD is a member of the twelve coastal state task forces established to date and works with BOEM, and state, Indian tribal, and local governments to plan offshore wind development on the Outer Continental Shelf. The major goal of these planning efforts is to identify areas on the Outer Continental Shelf where offshore wind resources can be developed while having minimal conflicts with existing users. DoD concerns regarding potential conflicts include impacts on sea and air system test activities, fleet and aviation training, fleet operations, air defense radar operations, seabed infrastructure, shipboard systems certifications, and new ship construction sea trials. To address all DoD concerns in a single assessment, Readiness coordinates with the military departments and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and other DoD Components as appropriate, compiles and reviews the assessment results, and presents these to the individual coastal state task forces. To date, DoD has assessed approximately 5,000 lease blocks<sup>5</sup> in the Atlantic and determined that wind energy development in three quarters of

---

<sup>5</sup> The Department of the Interior administers the submerged lands, subsoil, and seabed lying between the States' seaward jurisdiction and the seaward boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone, an area which generally includes the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Energy resource development on the Outer Continental Shelf is administered using a grid system comprised of lease blocks nominally sized at 5693 acres each. See: <http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Mapping-and-Data/Index.aspx>



these lease blocks would be compatible with military activities on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The DoD assessment is conducted at the lease block level and results in three possible categories:

- No restrictions: Wind projects in this category would have minimal or no impact on offshore training, testing, or operations.
- Site specific stipulations: Wind projects in these areas may have impact on military activities and DoD may request that BOEM add stipulations to the lease agreement to mitigate impacts; e.g., a requirement for the developer to coordinate major construction activities with DoD to avoid conflicting use during large fleet training exercises.
- Wind exclusion: Wind energy infrastructure in these areas would be incompatible with DoD activities; e.g., in an offshore live-fire training areas.

Informal and formal review requests are sent to DoD via BOEM. This requirement avoids expending DoD resources on an informal review of an area that BOEM would preclude from development given other considerations, such as critical habitat or vessel traffic separation schemes. Formal review requests will come from BOEM once they receive the developer's construction and operations plan. Only at this phase is there sufficient technical detail for a determination of mitigations that may be necessary. Individual project proposals received under this process are reviewed in accordance with the Formal Review procedures above. The potential requirement for mitigation will have been previously stipulated in the DoD assessment presented to the task force and included in the initial lease agreement.

### **Other non-FAA Federal Permitting and Regulatory Processes**

Infrastructure projects that require other Federal permitting or regulatory actions, such as NEPA, or projects proposed on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, also undergo Clearinghouse review. The Clearinghouse and DoD Components analyze potential project impacts of renewable energy and energy transmission projects using the formal review process above and request Cooperating Agency or other formal status as required to ensure DoD equities and interests are fully represented. Additionally, on August 6, 2012, the Departments of Defense and Interior entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the guiding concepts for the Renewable Energy Partnership Plan, the Departments' roles and responsibilities under the agreement, and how they will work together to carry out the initiative. A major goal of the partnership is to harness the significant proven solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy resources on or near DoD installations across the country.<sup>6</sup>

It should be noted that the Clearinghouse's reviews of infrastructure projects are limited to the analysis of the mission impacts of the project and in no way replace or

---

<sup>6</sup> The DOI/DoD MOU can be found at: <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20120806idmou.pdf>

supersede existing DoD roles and responsibilities for environmental, socioeconomic, and other analyses as required under NEPA or other Federal permitting and regulatory practices.

## **Federal Interagency Review Processes**

### **Opportunities to create or update processes and improve coordination**

The Clearinghouse provides streamlined coordination of mission impact reviews and improves communication with industry, other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and the public. The Clearinghouse is achieving these goals and is constantly striving to improve the timeliness and accuracy of project reviews. It is developing additional information technology capabilities to facilitate those reviews. As a new organization, not all policy and procedures are fully in place. Further documentation of the Clearinghouse policies and procedures will be published in the form of a DoD Instruction by October 2013.

The Clearinghouse is also reviewing other policy documents for opportunities to improve interagency coordination, including:

- The July 2008 DoD/BLM Wind Energy Protocol<sup>7</sup>
  - Correct inconsistencies with the protocol and Section 358 requirements of the Clearinghouse,
  - Harmonize inconsistencies with other documents such as the multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supporting the California Renewable Energy Action Team and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan;
- The February 2012 Great Lakes Offshore Wind Energy Consortium MOU<sup>8</sup> to correct inconsistencies with the MOU and Section 358 requirements; and
- The March 2013 draft interagency MOU proposed between the FAA, Department of Homeland Security, and DoD.

### **Best practices being implemented to improve coordination**

The creation of the Clearinghouse was DoD's first step in improving our responsiveness to stakeholders as well as our interaction with other Federal agencies. The Clearinghouse established a positive record of success in process improvements to speed project reviews. Some additional efforts we are undertaking to improve coordination include:

- Creation of an electronic interface between the DoD MCAT software and FAA OE/AAA database (see Information Technology below) that will ensure DoD has the most current information possible. An additional internal improvement will be the automatic tasking

---

<sup>7</sup> A copy of the protocol is at:

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/MINERALS\\_REALTY\\_AND\\_RESOURCE\\_PROTECTION/\\_energy/solar\\_and\\_wind.Par.75725.File.dat/Final\\_DOD\\_BLM\\_Protocol\\_080708.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/MINERALS_REALTY_AND_RESOURCE_PROTECTION/_energy/solar_and_wind.Par.75725.File.dat/Final_DOD_BLM_Protocol_080708.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> A copy of the Great Lakes MOU is at:

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wind/pdfs/great\\_lakes\\_offshore\\_wind\\_energy\\_consortium\\_mou.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wind/pdfs/great_lakes_offshore_wind_energy_consortium_mou.pdf)

and tracking of project reviews through MCAT, further streamlining our review processes.

- DoD has lead in the creation of regional partnering efforts with other Federal agencies, state, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations. One example is the Western Regional Partnership, a coalition of stakeholders from five western states that seeks to address issues similar to those created by the rapid development of renewable energy and bulk power transmission infrastructure, such as urban sprawl and habitat management. DoD is continuing those efforts, including a new one in the Mid-Atlantic region, and is incorporating our Clearinghouse outreach and engagement processes into those efforts.

## **Other Government Agencies Review Processes**

### **Opportunities to create or update processes and improve coordination**

In addition to the engagement with the Western Regional Partnership and other broad partnership initiatives mentioned above, DoD is actively involved with various state and local government initiatives such as the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). DRECP is based upon a December 2011 MOU<sup>9</sup> between DoD, the State of California, and several Federal agencies. It provides for the advance assessment of large areas of the Mojave Desert as potential renewable energy sites and facilitates and streamlines compliance with all applicable state and Federal laws. DRECP is expected to be fully implemented in early 2013.

DoD is also a signatory and participant in the 2012 Great Lakes Offshore Wind Energy Consortium. Similar to the DRECP, this initiative is based upon a MOU between multiple Federal agencies and multiple states and provides a coordinated process for reviewing and approving wind energy projects proposed for construction in the Great Lakes area. This effort is under review, with new information expected to be published by September 30, 2013.

### **Best practices being implemented to improve coordination**

The Interim Rule grants automatic “requestor” status to state and local government officials to promote early consultations on projects that may be known to state agencies but are not yet subject to a Federal permitting or regulatory process. This allows DoD to engage with project proponents very early, communicating the status of our many missions and how they may impact a project or vice versa. This practice has already resulted in the advance mitigation of impacts of a number of projects around the country, and is proving to be a very effective tool in our outreach to stakeholders.

In addition, DoD is working with a number of state legislatures (e.g., Texas and Washington) who are considering legislation modeled on products produced by the National

---

<sup>9</sup> For the MOU, see:

[http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/Renewable\\_Energy\\_Action\\_Team\\_and\\_Dept\\_of\\_Defense\\_MOU\\_Dec\\_2011.pdf](http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/Renewable_Energy_Action_Team_and_Dept_of_Defense_MOU_Dec_2011.pdf)

Conference of State Legislatures to create advance project notification requirements for projects in proximity to military test, training, and operational assets. DoD is informing legislative proponents about the Clearinghouse and its processes and encouraging legislatures to find a balance between protecting the jobs generated by military installations and the need to promote both economic growth and energy security through the development of renewable resources.

DoD sponsors the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS), an effort similar in purpose and scope to the Western Regional Partnership mentioned on the previous page. SERPPAS provides coordination among six southern states and numerous Federal agencies to promote land use compatibility and improve communications. Among other initiatives, SERPPAS is promoting the Biomass Issue Team. Biomass plants can impact military mission through exhaust stack height. By focusing on three main areas—supporting demonstration projects, mapping biomass opportunities, and conducting outreach and education on sustainability practices—SERPPAS aims to collaboratively and responsibly move biomass-to-energy development forward.

DoD sponsors a number of state-level Commanders Councils (for example, councils exist in Arizona, Florida, and Texas) and is fostering the creation of more around the Nation.<sup>10</sup> These councils promote regular meetings among the most senior military leaders in a state with senior state elected leaders and agency officials. The goal of a Commanders Council is to promote early and active planning coordination on a variety of issues, including infrastructure. The state-level Commanders Council construct is a forum to address challenges before they become issues and has met with great success. In addition to senior leaders, an added benefit of this model is to promote frequent meetings between senior staff of military installations, state elected leaders, and state agencies to coordinate specific planning efforts and develop best practices to smooth communication and facilitate action.

## **Issues and Conflict Resolution**

The Clearinghouse uses existing DoD initiatives such as SERPPAS and WRP (described previously) and outreach through the DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator Program to proactively engage with project proponents as early as possible in the development process. In addition, the Clearinghouse created the Mitigation Oversight Committee and Mitigation Response Teams to work productively with project proponents and stakeholders to reach mutually agreeable solutions to mitigate potential adverse impacts of renewable energy and energy transmission projects on military missions. These efforts are all subject to continuous improvement processes intended to provide DoD with a broad and effective “tool box” of engagement approaches.

The Clearinghouse is also leading a DoD-wide effort to establish guidance on how to best identify locations in advance where DoD equities may be most vulnerable to adverse impact by renewable energy and energy transmission projects.

---

<sup>10</sup> See the Council of State Governments Resolution at [http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/Commanders\\_Councils\\_2.pdf](http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/Commanders_Councils_2.pdf)

## **“Share in Cost” Authorities**

Section 358 authorizes DoD to accept voluntary contributions of funds by project proponents to offset the cost for DoD-implemented mitigation, including the costs of research to support the development of new mitigation technologies. This is a “first of its kind” authority for the Department of Defense, and has been well received by industry and other project proponents. DoD is excited about the potential for partnership this authority provides, and looks forward to exploring the possibilities. The Clearinghouse is currently finishing procedures for project proponents to make voluntary contributions to DoD for studies of mitigation options and installation of technical solutions to military radars in order to mitigate adverse impacts. These actions are expected to be complete by July 31, 2013. These procedures will enable funding acceptance from two agreements, already signed, and others now being negotiated.

## **Regulations, policies, and guidance that advance or hinder timely reviews**

### **Consistent intra-agency mitigation processes**

DoD continuously identifies new opportunities to promote consistent intra-agency mitigation processes as it continues work on developing internal policy and procedures for the Clearinghouse.

### **Interagency collaboration**

DoD notes the constructive and supportive efforts of our sister agencies. DoD seeks opportunities to promote and improve interagency collaboration through the same continuous improvement processes noted above.

### **More efficient and effective deployment of mitigation practices**

DoD is a leading member and provided significant funding for the Interagency Field Test Evaluation and a study led by MIT Lincoln Labs to evaluate the potential effectiveness of different technological mitigations to the impacts of wind turbines on radar capabilities. This effort is ongoing and initial results from the first set of field trials are encouraging. Other technology issues and areas of research have emerged from these efforts, and DoD is developing a focused research and development plan as called for in Section 358<sup>11</sup>.

### **Assuring clear descriptions of application process are publicly available**

The Clearinghouse established the procedures for formal and informal reviews of projects as authorized in section 358. This rule also guides how project proponents and the public may engage with the Clearinghouse on issues. DoD posted this rule on the Clearinghouse website (see Public Outreach below) and includes information about it in all outreach materials.

---

<sup>11</sup> For example, for some DoD test activities electromagnetic interference (EMI) may be an issue, and high voltage bulk power transmission lines can be an issue. These EMI issues are under investigation.

## **Information Technology**

DoD invests significantly in the development of Information Technology (IT) applications and training to support the review of infrastructure projects. This is an ongoing effort that includes the development of complex modeling tools to speed the evaluation of electromagnetic interference with various types of radar based on land, at sea, and in the air, and development of tools to streamline review processes. Specifics on many of these efforts are either classified or restricted from release by contractual obligations.

### **Current Information Technology Collaboration**

The MCAT helps DoD visualize mission impacts and promote land uses compatible with military missions. It was adopted and adapted to help manage information and promote timely review of project proposals. Elements of MCAT include:

- Automated acquisition and transfer of FAA OE/AAA project information,
- Automated tasking of project reviews and tracking of responses,
- Improved communication and coordination between the DoD Components to ensure all DoD equities are accounted for,
- A Geographic Information System application and database providing land use compatibility and project information visualization capabilities, and
- Password and Common Access Card protection of industry proprietary data.

### **Clearinghouse Use of Electronic Proposals for Review**

The DoD Clearinghouse is not a regulatory body, and does not take written permit applications. It makes recommendations based on electronic submissions, tied to other federal regulatory agencies. A website, still under development, already informs project proponents how to submit their projects for review (see Public Outreach below).

### **Initiatives to increase the use of Information Technology**

DoD is investing in a number of tools to automate and model the potential electromagnetic and other impacts of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure on DoD missions. DoD developed both MCAT and a website<sup>12</sup> to automate and facilitate the handling of information about and reviews of proposed projects, and communicate with project stakeholders. These efforts are ongoing and are already bearing fruit in the improvement and streamlining of DoD project reviews.

---

<sup>12</sup> Web site is at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ie/siting.shtml>

## **Public Outreach**

### **Examples and suggestions for developing strong applications**

Minimum requirements for information needed for project reviews are outlined in the Interim Rule. Project proponents should note the Formal and Informal Review processes described above. The more information provided in the Informal Review process concerning physical locations of energy infrastructure, size of generation/transmission facilities, radar cross section (if available), and other details, the more timely and complete the DoD review can be.

### **Practices and IT tools used for stakeholder outreach**

Public engagement by the Clearinghouse is governed by 32 CFR Part 211 and the DoD Siting Clearinghouse Outreach Plan. Components of that plan include:

- A public website available at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dodsc/> ;
- Aggressive timelines for responsiveness to requestors laid out both in the Interim Rule and in DoD policy; and
- Active participation in many industry forums, state and local government gatherings, and other outreach venues such as SERPPAS and the Western Regional Partnership mentioned above.

### **Tribal, state, and local government's roles in permit reviews**

State and local government officials have roles as requestors of project informal reviews under the Interim Rule. In addition, the draft changes to the Interim Rule will add Indian tribal government officials as requestors for informal reviews.