How to succeed in getting...

Permits for Green Energy Projects in Hawaii

Paul Luersen, AICP - Senior Environmental Planner, CH2M HILL
Jeffrey Overton, AICP - Principal Planner, Group 70 International, Inc.
Project Permitting Essentials

Technical
- Size/Scale
- Location
- Inputs/Outputs
- Regulatory
- Timetable

Community
- Culture
- Neighbors
- Area/Region
- Political
- Interest Groups

Environment
- Green/Brown
- Cultural
- Biological
- Human/Social
- Benefits

CH2M HILL

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL
Permits & Reviews = Time

- Planning
- Technical Studies
- Design
- EA/EIS & Approvals
- Permits (Build-Operate)
- Construction
- Operation
- … Green Energy!
Limit the Process -- Up Front

- **Define Permit Requirements**
  - Land Use, Environmental, Site/Building
  - Legal Agreements, Licenses

- **Scope Project to Minimize Issues**
  - Location, Scope, Process, Design Choices
  - Limit Permits & Regulatory Process

- **Inter-Agency Cooperation Essential**
  - Federal, State, County
  - Seek Concurrent Reviews
“Don’t Be Afraid…It’s Green Energy!”

- Agencies are Expediting Permit Reviews
  - Mandates, System Efficiencies, Actions
- Communities want Green Energy
  - Everyone is Doing Their Part
- It’s still a “Development Project”
  - Not without Real Impacts & Balancing Values
Engage the Community

• Inform & Understand
  – Give Facts & Visuals

• Involve Community: Planning & Reviews
  – Outreach, Seek Local Input, Reflect Issues

• “Ownership” of the Outcomes
  – Recognize Impacts
  – Share in the Success
Kauai Algae Farm
General Atomics & Hawaii BioEnergy

- Algae-Based Green Jet Fuel
- $20m DARPA Grant Funding
- 30 acres
- Fed, State, County Permits: 12 mos.
- 2011 Operations
Biofuels Processing Facility

UOP Honeywell

- Non-Petroleum Fuels from Biomass
- DOE $25m Grant
- NEPA, State & County Permits: 12 mos.
- 2012 Operational
- Agencies & Public
ASEF Kalaeloa Solar Farm
ASEF Kalaeloa (Sunetric & Partners)

- Ground Mount Solar Photovoltaic 5 MW
- HECO Negotiate PPA
- Kalaeloa HCDA
- HRS 343 EA
- State & County Permits: 18 mos.
- Construction: 2014
- Cultural Community
Kawaiola Wind Farm

Overview

- First Wind
- Commercial Wind Energy
- Kamehameha Schools North Shore Lands
- HEPA and NEPA
- Federal, State, County permits
- 2012 Operational
Kawailoa Wind Farm

- 69 MW
- 30 Turbines
- Collector lines
- Switching Station
- Access Roads
- Communications
Kawailoa Wind Farm

Permit Assessment

- Based on project description and alternatives
- GIS maps of regulatory, environmental, other data
- Include all potential permits
- Research requirements and consult with agencies
- Think strategically
- Use available tools (e.g., HRS 201N)

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Kawailoa Wind Farm
Initial Permits and Approvals

HRS 343 EIS (Accepting Authority – DBEDT) for entire project
NEPA EA for Federal Approvals

Wind Farm Permits:
- ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permit
- FAA Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) License
- State Endangered Species Incidental Take License
- Operate or Transport Oversize and/or Overweight Vehicles and Loads
- SMA (Minor)
- Conditional Use Permit (Minor)

Communication Site Permits:
- Conservation District Use Permit
- Request for Use of State Lands
Kawailoa Wind Farm

HEPA and NEPA

- HRS 343 EIS – under 12 months

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- NEPA concurrent with HEPA EIS
- Commercial operation Nov 2012
Kawailoa Wind Farm

Permit Schedule

- Based on Permit Assessment and other key activities
- Analyze task durations and links to other tasks
- Optimize the work
- Work the schedule
- Have a contingency plan (change management)

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# Kawailoa Wind Farm

## Compliance Matrix

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Permitting Success

• **Agencies**: “You’re not doing this alone!”

• **Team**: Info & Process **Coordination** 24-7
  – Work Closely with Agencies

• **Strategize** Pathways to Streamline Process
  – Avoid Conflicts & Solve Issues

• **Enable** **Quick Decisions**
  – Support Agencies with Information Needed

• **Be Flexible** in the Evolution of Projects
Presenter Contact Information

Paul Luersen, AICP
Senior Environmental Planner
CH2M HILL - Honolulu
808-440-0201

Jeffrey Overton, AICP
Principal Planner
Group 70 International, Inc. - Honolulu
808-523-5866