Low-Carbon Energy Project Siting Improvement Study

Advisory Board

Overview of State Agency Permitting Process Improvements

February 9, 2022
Project Permitting

• Permits required vary based on the project, construction, operations and site
• State, local and federal permits from multiple agencies likely needed for complex projects
• Each permit has own regulatory requirements and timelines
Aquatic Permitting

- **Local**: Shoreline Master Program Permits, Critical Areas Ordinance, Floodplain Development
- **State**: Aquatic Use Authorization, Hydraulic Project Approval, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Coastal Zone Management Certification, Construction Stormwater General Permit
- **Federal**: Discharge of Dredge or Fill Material Section 404 permit, Work or Structures in Navigable Waters Section 10 permit, Private Aids to Navigation

- Joint Aquatics Resources Permit Application (JARPA) includes all the bolded permits in one application
Evaluating State Agency Permit Processes

- Permit Timeliness Report
- Agency customer surveys
- Performance audits
- Internal agency reviews
- Cross-agency coordination
State Agency Permit Improvements

- Online forms
- Electronic application submission
- Updated guidance and templates available online
- Increased focus on permit pre-application phase
Ecology Customer Surveys - Permitting

• 40% used pre-application technical assistance
  – Of those, 89% found pre-application assistance helpful
• 78% felt the permit requirements were clear
• 80% felt they were informed about what was needed to submit a complete application
Examples of Permit Pre-application Phase Efforts

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) multi-permit coordination
- EFSEC process
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration Air Quality Permit
- Water Rights Permit
Questions?