

# 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?