

SURVEY OF THE EASE OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES ISSUING ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF NEW POWER GENERATION CAPACITY IN 28 STATES IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE U.S.

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ABSTRACT

We conducted a survey of 28 state air pollution control agencies to evaluate the relative ease of state environmental agencies issuing environmental permits for the construction of new power generation capacity. This paper is directed to project managers, project developers and others responsible selecting locations for new power generation capacity and managing the process of obtaining all environmental permits needed for construction and operation of these facilities.

The survey was conducted by e-mail and phone interview with the persons in charge of air permitting and the persons in charge of other environmental permitting for new power generation facilities in each state. There were eight questions concerning air pollution permitting and nine questions concerning other environmental permitting. All 28 states responded to the survey.

Using an objective scoring system, the 28 states were individually ranked from highest to lowest in terms of ease of permitting of new power generation capacity. The ranking was first conducted separately for air pollution and for other environmental requirements. These rankings were then combined into a single ranking by state.

States in the Southeast tended to have the greatest ease of permitting while states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions tended to have more difficult permitting requirements. These results are discussed and conclusions are presented.