Siting and Military Capabilities: DoD’s Energy Siting Clearinghouse

Dave Belote
Energy Siting Clearinghouse
Office of the Secretary of Defense
America’s Military Missions

We train... test...
operate... And defend.
The Renewable Conundrum

• Unintended Consequences
  – Rapid development of renewable technologies
  – Rapidly changing military technology research & development

• Existing Policy and Processes
  – Not up to date with changing technologies
  – Land use decision-making authorities fragmented across all levels of government
Crescent Dunes to Coyote Springs: Congressional Push for Action
Shepherd’s Flat – We Were Unprepared
The Renewable Conundrum

• DoD’s Response Inadequate
  • Case-by-case basis, steep learning curve, slow responses to requests for review
  • Uneven coordination among installations Services
  • No single voice

• RESULT: Confusion, Delay, and Frustration for All Stakeholders – and extensive Congressional interest
The 2011 NDAA

- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- Section 358 “Study Of Effects Of New Construction Of Obstructions On Military Installations And Operations”
- Designation Of Senior Official And Lead Organization
- Focuses on Obstructions per the OE/AAA Process
Key Elements of Section 358

- 180-day Preliminary Actions
- 270-day Comprehensive Strategy
- Hazard Assessment
  - Determination of unacceptable risk may only be delegated to:
    - The Deputy Secretary of Defense
    - The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics
    - The Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics

- Report to Congress
- Authority to accept funds for mitigation
DoD Energy Siting Clearinghouse

- Organization and Tools
  - Regional Mission Compatibility Review Teams
  - Mission Compatibility Awareness Tool (MCAT)
  - Operational Impact Assessment Tools
DoD Energy Siting Clearinghouse

- Concept of Operations
  - Outreach and Early Consultation
  - What the Clearinghouse Needs to Know

- Concept of Operations
  - Matrix of Data and Communications
  - Parallel Multi-Service Review
    - NOT a replacement for OE/AAA, NTIA, or NEPA
    - Applies to ALL renewables, not just wind
    - Applies on AND off our bases
One Way Ahead

- Travis AFB CRADA
  - Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)
  - Multiple Partners including Air Force, utility provider, wind developer, and consultants, plus multiple supporting organizations
  - Jointly funded studies of impacts and explored mitigations
  - Resulted in “re-tuning” of radar to mitigate coverage impacts
• A Single DoD Voice
  – Timely, repeatable, and predictable process that promotes compatibility between energy independence and military capabilities: two key facets of national security
  – Most projects will be reviewed and cleared by Services in 30 – 45 days
  – Only projects with significant impacts or that need multi-Service coordination will receive full Clearinghouse attention
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