



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Energy Resources**

**Transmission Planning  
Stakeholder Group Meeting #3  
Pursuant to Resolve 2025, ch. 57**

March 27, 2026



## Resolve 2025, ch. 57

# *To Direct the Governor's Energy Office (now DOER) to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State*



DOER will **coordinate with state agencies** involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric transmission infrastructure and **solicit information from a stakeholder group** to assist in conducting the study under section 1.



DOER must submit a report with an overview of the study and any recommendations **to the Legislature by September 1, 2026.**



DOER will **include any comments provided by the stakeholder group as an appendix** to the report of the study.



# Maine Transmission Infrastructure Study

**Pursuant to the legislation, the study must include a review of:**

- 1. Existing processes for the siting and permitting of new and upgraded electric transmission infrastructure in the State;*
2. Best practices related to electric transmission planning, siting, permitting and community engagement from other states or regions;
3. Existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to integrate new renewable resources as well as to ensure reliability, improve market efficiency or support the achievement of the State's policy goals;
4. Types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State; and
5. Existing and emerging technology and construction methods



# Today's Goals

- Provide a brief summary of Stakeholder Group Meeting #2, revisit the stakeholder group purpose, and **outline future meeting topics and schedule** for the remainder of the engagement.
- Build greater understanding about the **existing processes and procedures** for the siting and permitting of transmission infrastructure, including opportunities for public engagement, as well as **best practices** in planning, siting, permitting, and community engagement around transmission.
- Discuss these processes and practices, generating **feedback and input** for the Maine Transmission Infrastructure Study.



# Next Steps for Engagement

- DOER will conduct 3 additional stakeholder group meetings prior to the submission of the report.
- The meetings will continue to follow the content outlined in Section 1 of the Resolve.
  - **May 5, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of the types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights-of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State; explore strategic undergrounding and a cost-benefit analysis of various undergrounding options
  - **June 2, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to integrate new renewable resources, as well as to ensure reliability, improve market efficiency, or support the achievement of the State's policy goals; explore existing and emerging technology and construction methods
  - **August 5, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of the draft Maine Infrastructure Study and how its content evolved based on stakeholder input
- The study will be completed and submitted to the Legislature by September 1, 2026.



# Today's Agenda

- **Brief re-introductions and opening exercise**
- **Presentation by E3 and CBI with opportunity for discussion**
  - Overview of existing processes for developing new and upgrading existing transmission infrastructure; best practices in transmission planning, siting and permitting
- **Facilitated Q&A and time for public input**
- **Next steps for engagement**



# Maine Transmission Infrastructure Study

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting #3

3/27/26



Energy+Environmental Economics



# **Existing Processes for Developing New and Upgrading Existing Transmission Infrastructure**



Energy+Environmental Economics

# Agenda

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## + Existing processes for developing new and upgrading existing transmission infrastructure

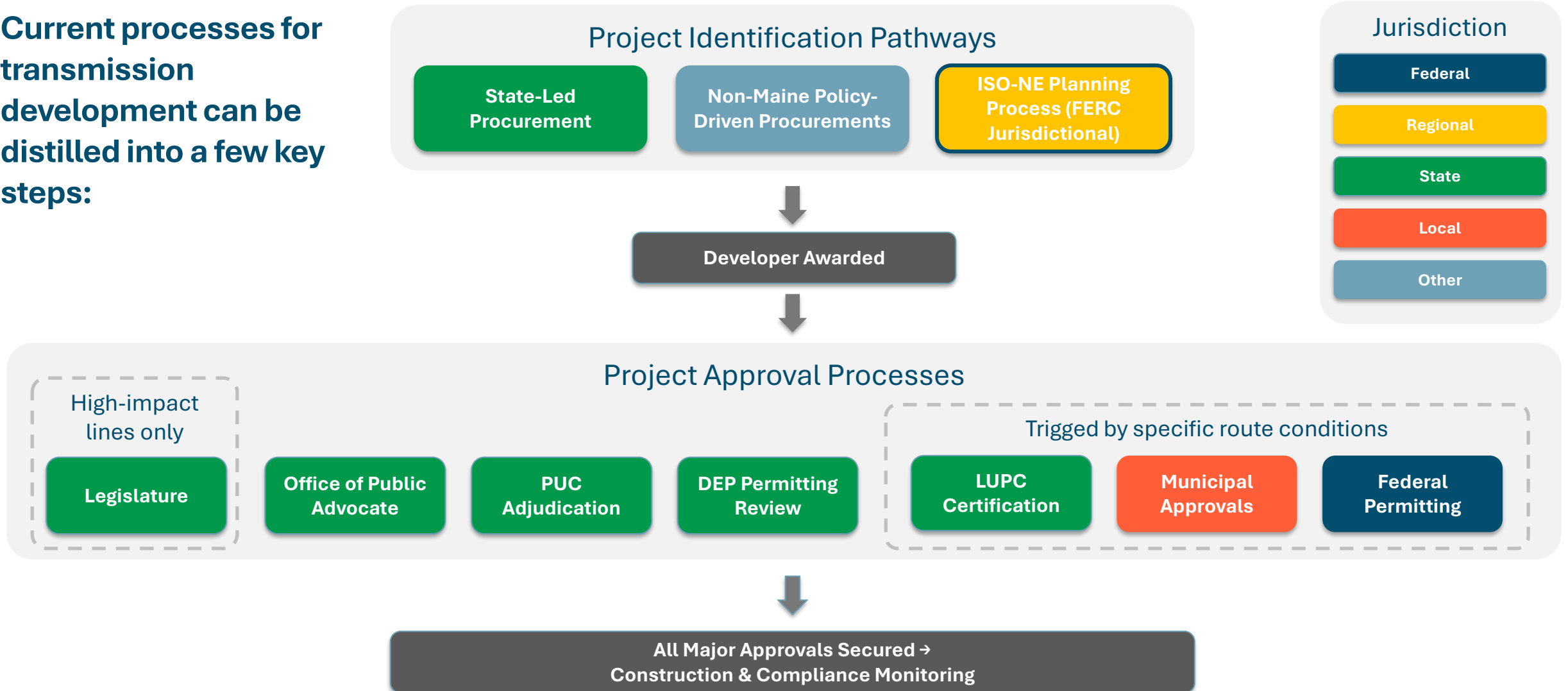
- Project identification pathways
- Project approval processes

## + Best practices in transmission planning, siting and permitting

- Identifying process barriers
- Defining success
- Discussing best practices

# Project Development Milestones

Current processes for transmission development can be distilled into a few key steps:

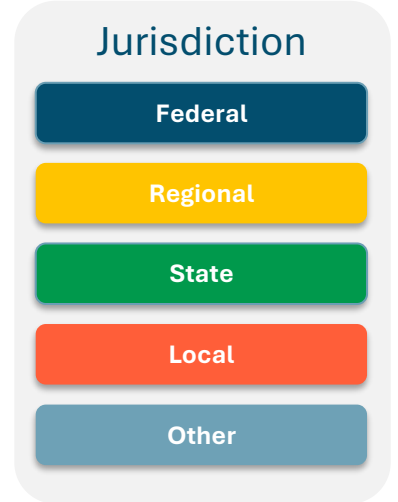
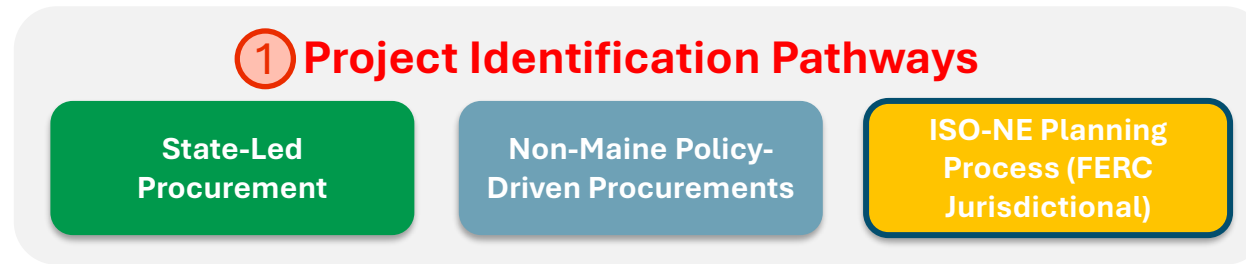


# Project Development Milestones

Current processes for transmission development can be distilled into a few key steps:

① These are primary ways new transmission investments are identified and awarded

- Incorporate needs assessments, which evaluate major drivers like aging assets, load growth, new resource integration, policy objectives, and reduce power costs



Developer Awarded

## Project Approval Processes

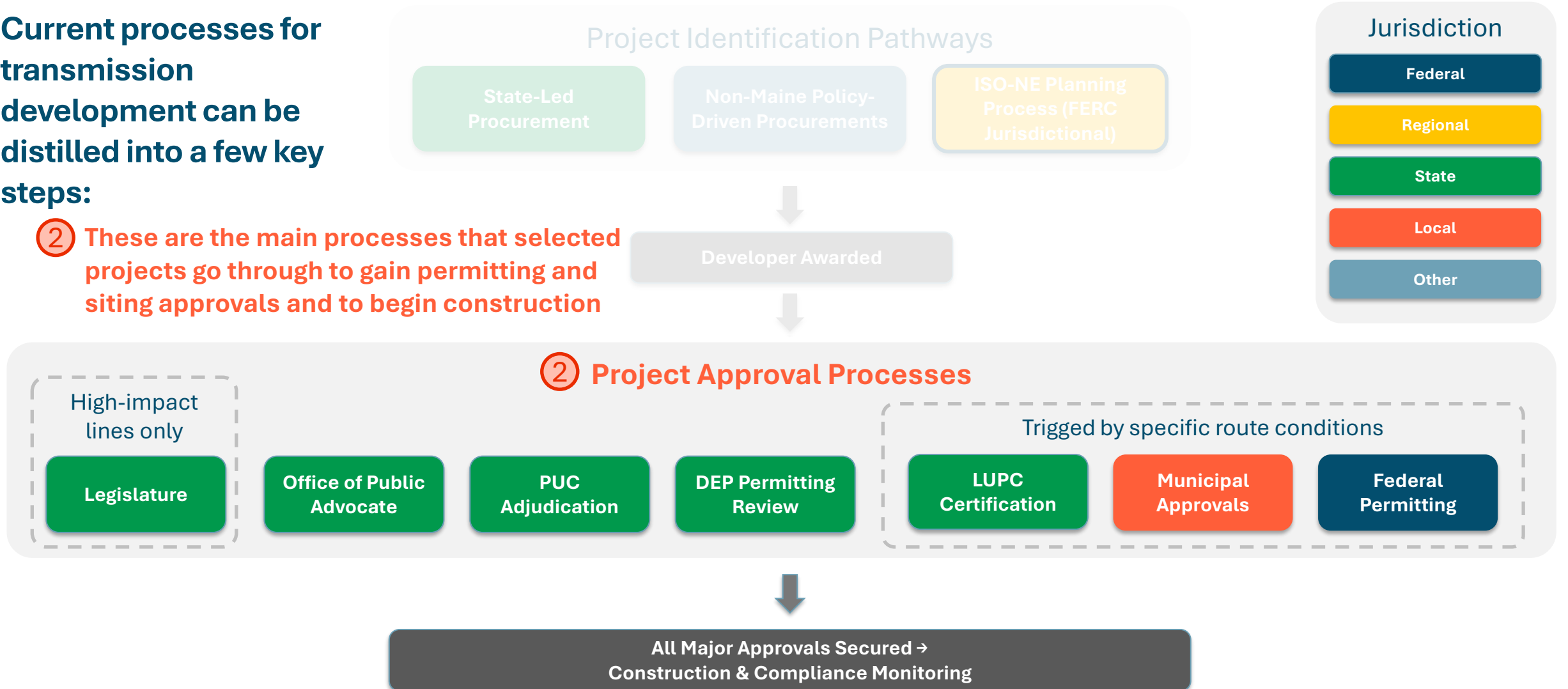


All Major Approvals Secured → Construction & Compliance Monitoring

# Project Development Milestones

Current processes for transmission development can be distilled into a few key steps:

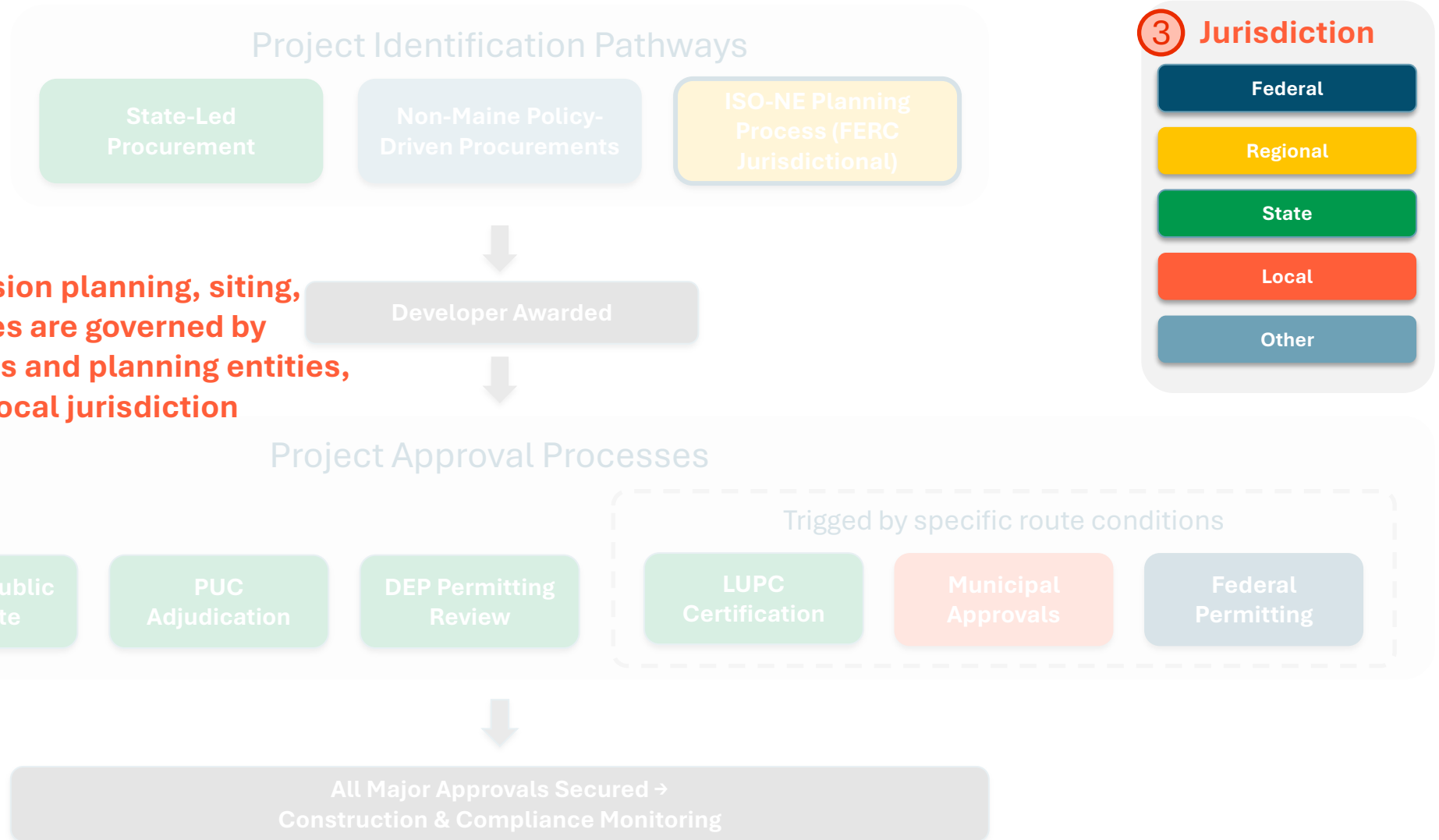
② These are the main processes that selected projects go through to gain permitting and siting approvals and to begin construction



# Project Development Milestones

Current processes for transmission development can be distilled into a few key steps:

③ At each stage, transmission planning, siting, and permitting processes are governed by several regulatory bodies and planning entities, ranging from federal to local jurisdiction



# Project Development Milestones

## Project Identification Pathways

State-Led Procurement

Non-Maine Policy-Driven Procurements

ISO-NE Planning Process (FERC Jurisdictional)

## Jurisdiction

Federal

Regional

State

Local

Other

The following slides discuss each of these pathways in detail, including opportunities for stakeholder engagement at each stage and within each jurisdiction

Developer Awarded

## Project Approval Processes

High-impact lines only

Legislature

Office of Public Advocate

PUC Adjudication

DEP Permitting Review

Triggered by specific route conditions

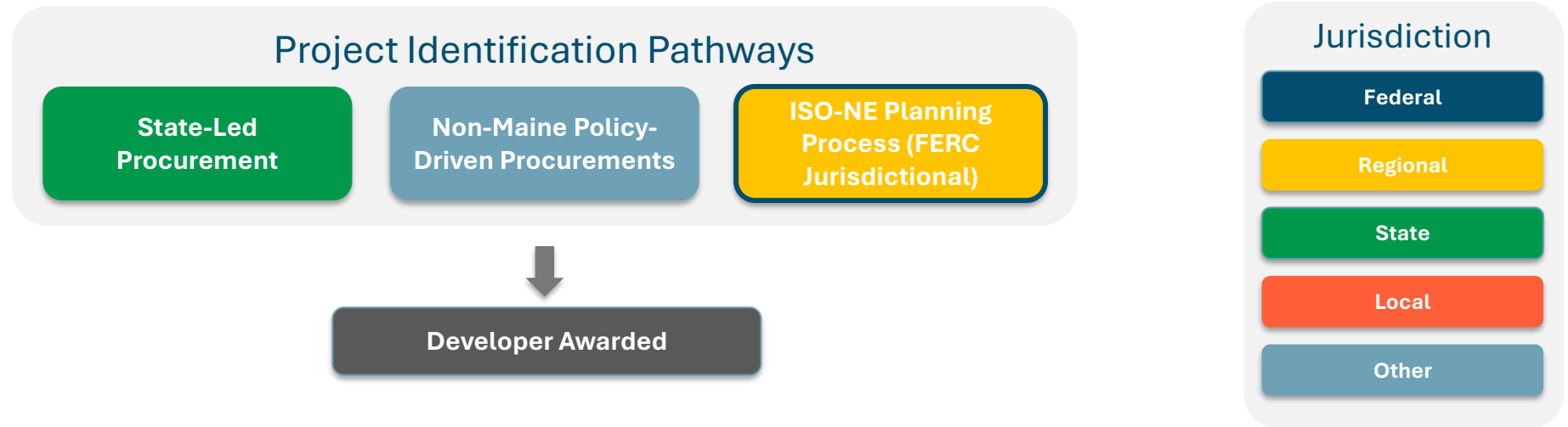
LUPC Certification

Municipal Approvals

Federal Permitting

All Major Approvals Secured →  
Construction & Compliance Monitoring

# Project Identification Pathways

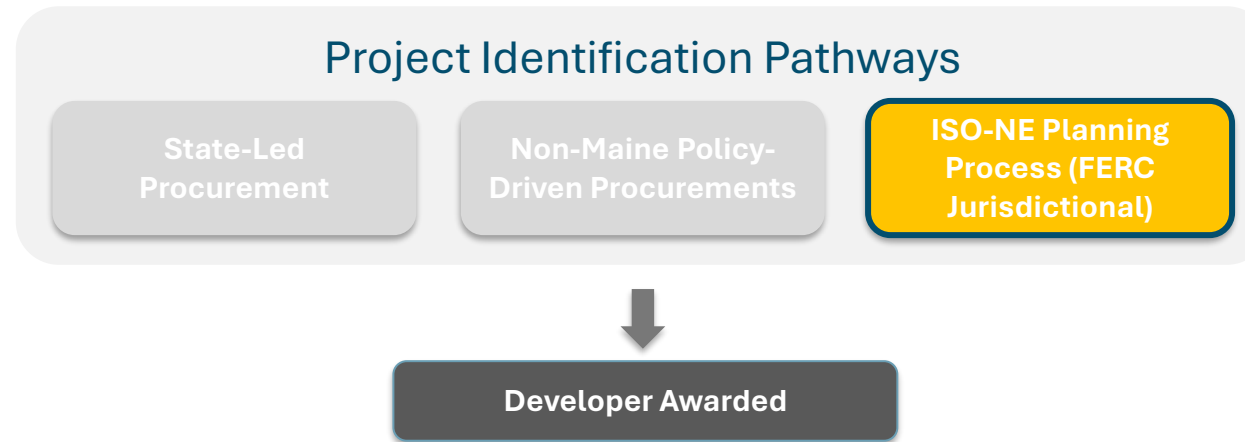


+ **Project identification pathways are the mechanisms and processes through which transmission projects in Maine are initially proposed, assessed, and selected for development**

+ **These processes include:**

- Regional planning processes at ISO New England from which the majority of transmission projects originate
- Maine-led legislative action
- Initiatives by neighboring states or other entities to develop projects within Maine in support of policy objectives

# ISO New England (ISO-NE) and Transmission Planning



- + ISO-NE operates the region's high-voltage grid and administers competitive electricity markets to ensure reliability and economic efficiency
- + ISO-NE conducts transmission planning\* to identify, award development rights, and assign the costs of the transmission infrastructure that can meet the future needs of the grid including:
  - Reliability needs – can the grid serve its customers without losing power?
  - Market efficiency needs – how can the grid be built and operated most cost effectively?
  - Public policy needs – can the grid support the policy goals of its customers?

# ISO-NE Planning Process

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Opportunity

ISO-NE Planning  
Process (FERC  
Jurisdictional)

## Inputs Development

- Building the model used for evaluating transmission needs and projects
- Includes decisions on key inputs like future load growth, resource builds, state public policy goal achievement



## Need Identification

- Conducting reliability and economic analyses to identify Tx needs



## Solicitation

- Solicit competitive proposals from project developers to finance, construct, and own new transmission solutions that meet previously identified needs



## Project Selection

- ISO-NE evaluates proposals to select the solution that best meets the identified needs



## Cost Allocation

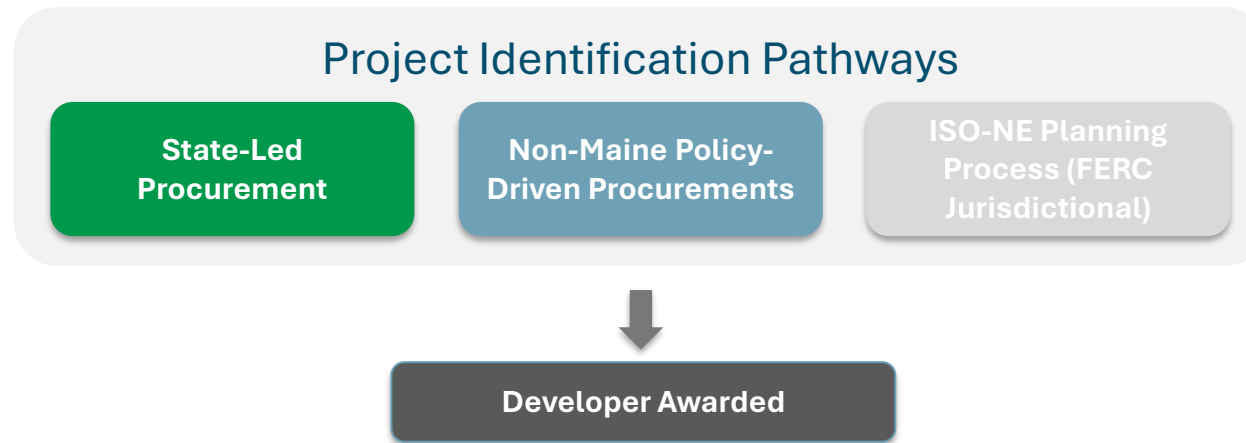
- ISO-NE assigns project costs to electricity customers in New England in a manner roughly commensurate with distribution of benefits



## Stakeholder Engagement

- + **The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is the primary venue for stakeholder engagement in ISO-NE Planning**
  - ISO-NE regularly meets with PAC to inform and solicit feedback from stakeholders throughout planning stages
  - PAC meetings are open to the public
- + **New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) is the primary stakeholder group in ISO-NE**
  - NEPOOL's Participants Committee votes on ISO-NE tariff changes
- + **State officials work to identify policy-driven inputs**
  - New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) represents interests of 6 New England States and works with ISO-NE on inputs development

# Maine-Led and Non-Maine Policy-Driven Procurements



**+ Maine’s legislature may create a special procurement authority to identify and contract for projects that advance state energy priorities**

- Legislated authorities tend to be for projects that help achieve state goals but are unlikely to be provided by the market
- Example: PUC-led procurement for G&T infrastructure via Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

**+ Other states may select projects that affect Maine in response to their own policy-driven procurements, which require the same approvals and permits**

- Example: the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) line was developed in response to a Massachusetts-led procurement soliciting long-term contracts for clean energy

# State-Led Procurement (Illustrative Process)

Based on the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program; may vary by procurement

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Opportunity

State-Led  
Procurement

## Legislation

- Legislature passes a bill granting authority to the Maine Public Utilities Commission to procure a targeted transmission-based solution to help achieve state climate goals



## Coordination with ISO-NE

- MPUC ensures procurement is well coordinated with ongoing ISO-NE planning processes



## Request for Information (RFI) & Request for Proposals (RFP)

- RFI seeking information about project concepts, costs, timelines, and market interest
- Draft RFP for feedback on procurement requirements, evaluation criteria, etc.
- Final RFP seeking proposals to meet the legislated need



## Procurement

- MPUC selects the proposal that best meets statutory criteria including cost, deliverability, and ratepayer benefit
- Generation is secured through long-term PPAs



## Cost Allocation

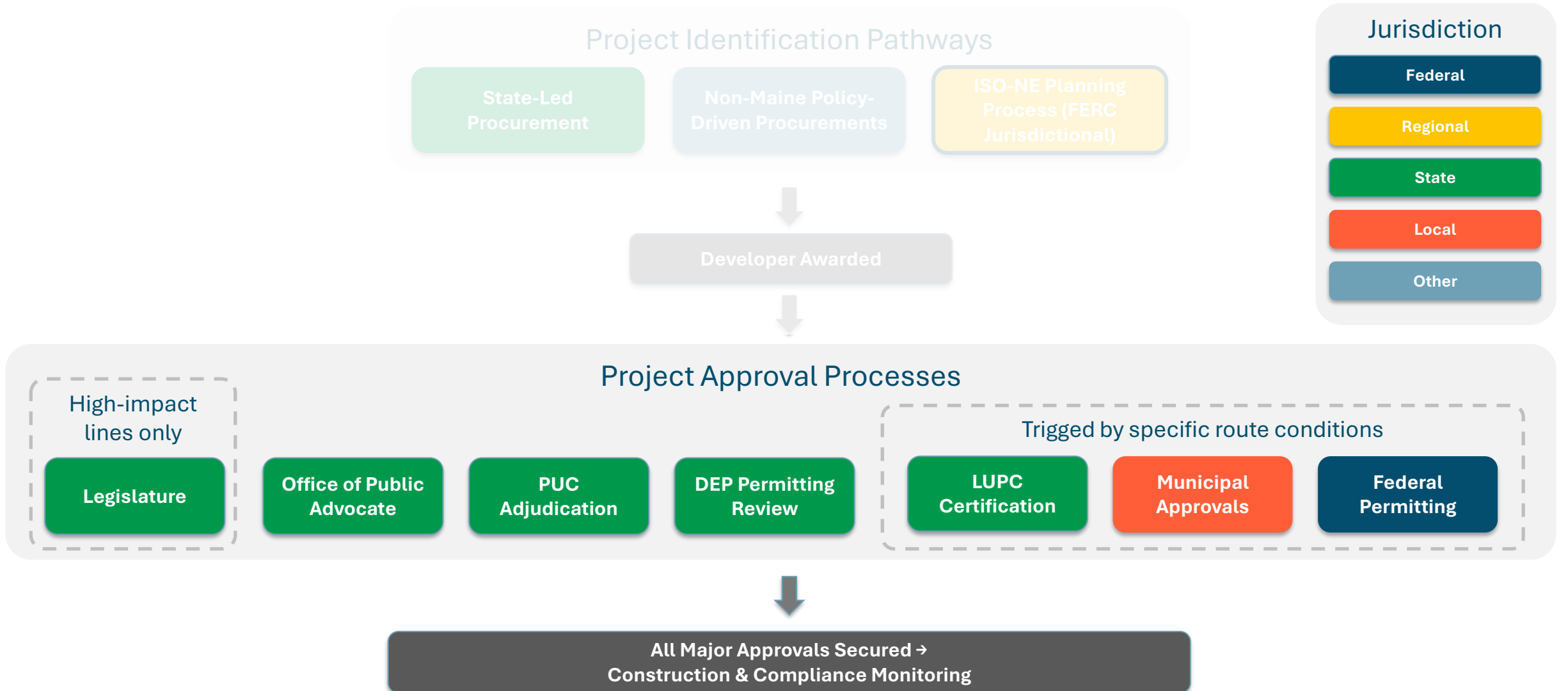
- Costs may be coordinated among voluntarily participating New England states whose clean energy goals are aided by the Maine-based project



## Stakeholder Engagement

- + **Stakeholders can participate in legislative committees**
  - Submit written or oral testimony at public hearings while legislation is under consideration
- + **There are multiple points of potential engagement through the RFI and RFP process; stakeholders can:**
  - Submit responses to the RFI to inform procurement structure and technical requirements (typically industry-focused participants)
  - Provide written comments on the draft RFP to shape evaluation criteria and contract terms

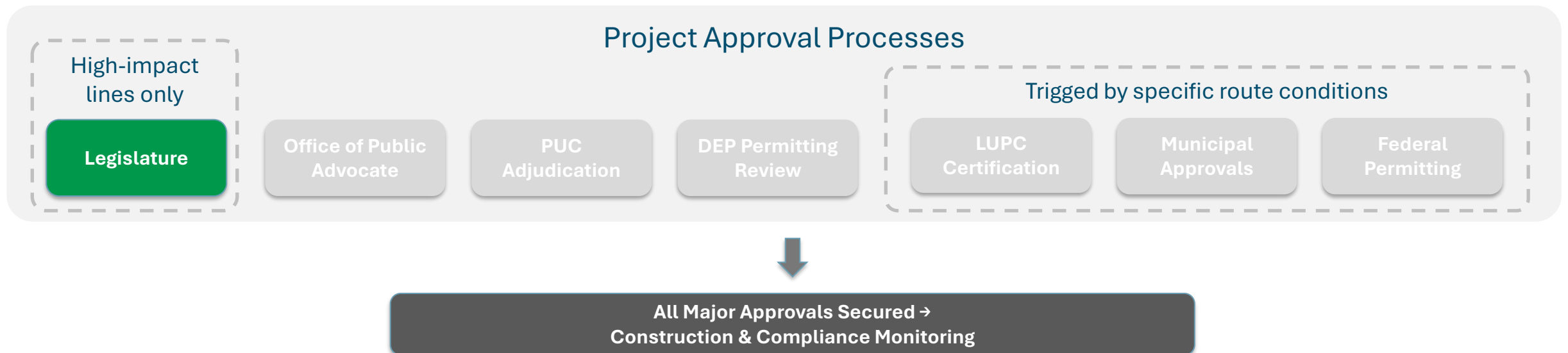
# Project Development Milestones



# Legislative Approval of High-Impact Transmission Lines

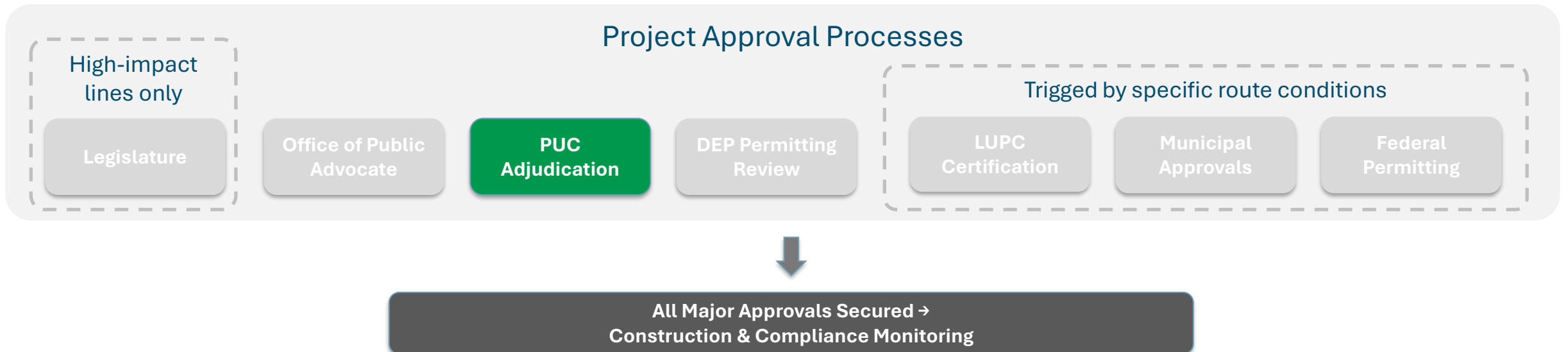
+ **65 ME Code R. Ch. 330** defines “high-impact electric transmission line” as any line greater than 50 miles in length or operating at 345+ kV

- When evaluating issuing a permit for high-impact lines (discussed in subsequent slides), the Commission must follow Title 35-A §3132(6-D), which requires majority approval by legislature **unless deemed to substantially impact public lands**, in which case 2/3<sup>rd</sup> approval is necessary
  - High-impact lines approved for contract after a **competitive procurement** conducted by the Commission are deemed to have received majority approval
- Also prohibits construction of high-impact lines in the Upper Kennebec Region



# Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Adjudication Process

- + MPUC regulates public utility providers within the state, incl. electric and gas, with goals of ensuring **safe, reasonable, and adequate service**, providing **just and reasonable rates**, and **reducing GHGs**
- + MPUC has authority to review and approve transmission construction in the state via the **Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)** process
  - Adjudicatory process required of most transmission line built in the state and allows for stakeholder participation
  - Review focuses on determining public need, considering factors including ratepayer costs, reasonable alternatives, environmental impacts, economic benefits, etc.
  - Approval signifies that proceeding with the project is prudent and meets a public need, and authorizes developer to begin construction



# MPUC Adjudication Process

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Opportunity

PUC Adjudication

## CPCN Filing

- Developer must submit petition for CPCN to the MPUC that includes description of need, effect of proposed line on public, proximity to inhabited dwellings, justification of route, and other materials such as a non-wires alternatives report



## Notice & Intervention

- MPUC reviews petition materials for completeness before publishing notice of public hearing; stakeholders may file formal Petition to Intervene in CPCN docket



## Evidentiary Hearings

- Intervenors and parties may submit evidence, file data requests, or present testimony during public hearing; MPUC considers findings during review of petition



## Review of Petition

- MPUC determines public need and whether non-wires alternatives can meet that need more cost-effectively, considering at minimum economics, reliability, public health and safety, scenic/historic/recreational values, state renewable energy goals, inhabited dwelling proximity, plus DEP findings where applicable



## Final Order

- MPUC issues decision; if rejected, any party to the CPCN proceeding may petition to reconsider; if granted, MPUC provides notice of order to each affected municipality, but CPCN does not override municipal siting

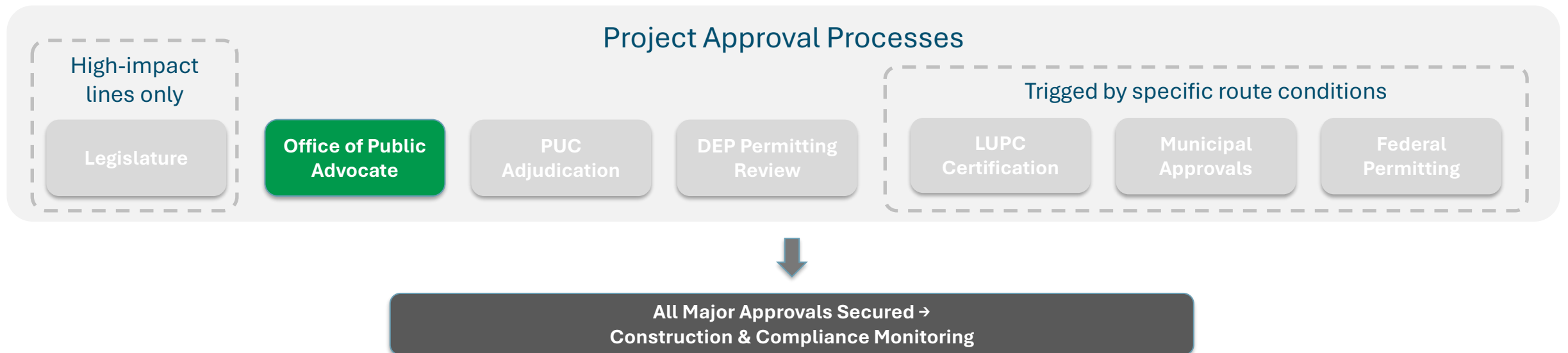


## Stakeholder Engagement

- + **CPCN is adjudicatory process that allows participation or formal intervention throughout**
- + **Any stakeholder may submit written comments via MPUC's Case Management System (CMS)**
  - MPUC may hold public witness hearings during which stakeholders may speak under oath
- + **To conduct discovery and participate as an active party, a stakeholder must intervene**
  - This requires stakeholders to have a direct interest in the outcome or demonstrate ability to contribute materially to the record
- + **MPUC has an intervenor and participant funding program that covers qualified costs like hiring expert witnesses**

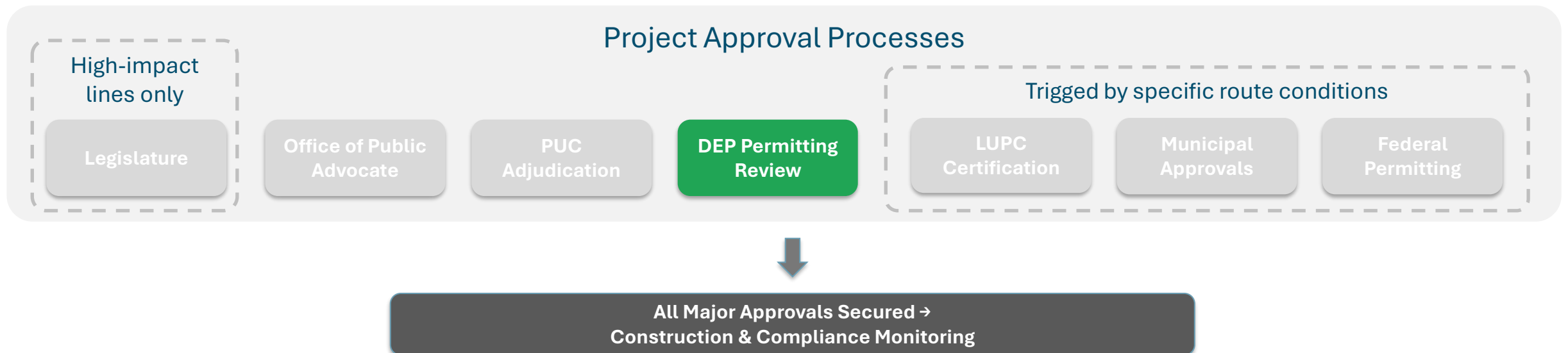
# Office of Public Advocate

- + The Public Advocate contracts with a “non-wires alternative coordinator” to investigate and make recommendations regarding non-wires alternative (NWA) to proposed capital investments in T&D projects being considered by the MPUC
  - Investigation must be conducted in coordination with Efficiency Maine Trust
  - Compares NPV of benefits and costs for proposed project to those of NWAs, including consideration of avoided costs, deferral value, etc. **from both IOU and ratepayer perspective**
  - Provides recommendation to MPUC regarding effectiveness of NWA with proposed plan of procurement, if applicable



# Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Permitting Process

- + Maine DEP is the permitting authority for environmental, land, and water related impacts
- + DEP reviews and grants permits under the following statutes:
  - Site Location of Development Act (Site Law): Governs the siting and environmental review of large development projects
  - Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA): Regulates impacts to specific protected natural resources like wetlands, rivers, and habitats.
  - Other permits depending on the scope of the transmission project: Stormwater permits, water quality certification permits, air emissions and waste discharge licenses, air licenses, and borrow pit permits, etc.



# DEP Permitting Review Process

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Opportunity

DEP Permitting  
Review

## Application Filed

- Applicant files formal submission of permit applications to appropriate agency:
  - Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) has automatic jurisdiction over high-impact projects (>50mi and: >=345kV or DC)
  - DEP has jurisdiction over projects not deemed high-impact; DEP jurisdictional projects may be referred to BEP jointly by developer and DEP Commissioner, or if DEP decision is appealed



## Technical Review

- DEP/BEP evaluates statutory criteria for applicable permits under Site Law, NRPA, Stormwater Law, and Water Quality Certification, etc.
- DEP/BEP may request additional analysis and technical studies



## Public Hearing\*

- DEP/BEP may decide to hold hearing
- Experts and stakeholders provide sworn testimony on scenic, property, wildlife, & climate impacts



## Final Decision

- For BEP-jurisdictional projects, the 7-seat board representing four geographic regions of Maine and a balance of environmental interests hold a vote to approve of permits
- For DEP projects, Commissioner has executive discretion to approve, provide conditional approval, or deny permits based on statutory compliance to environmental standards



## Stakeholder Engagement

### + DEP accepts public comments throughout the application processing period

- Site Law requires notice be given to municipal offices, planning boards, and county commissioners
- Stakeholders submit written comments via email/mail to DEP PM and can request a hearing
- Agency stakeholders including IFW and DMR are often consulted for technical expertise
- Intervenor status must be applied for/granted to present formal evidence and cross-examine in hearings

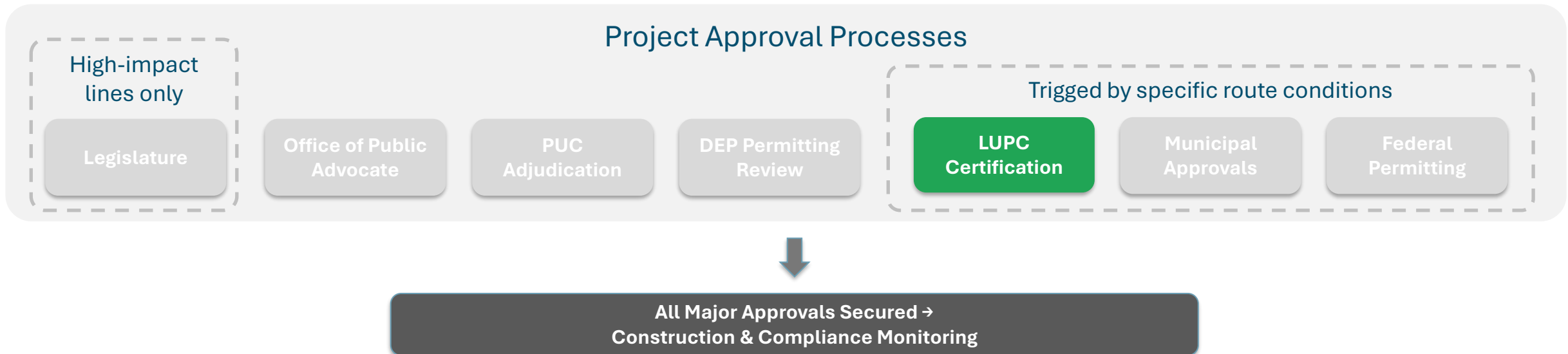
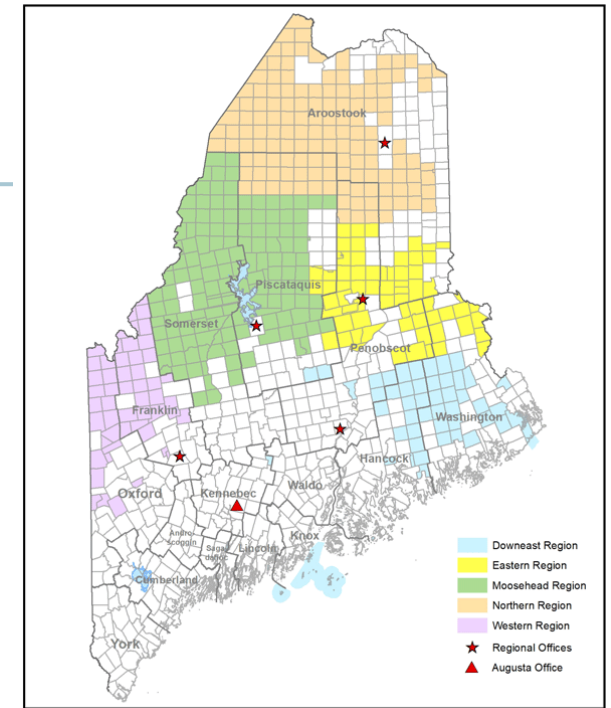
### + Stakeholders may appeal a decision to the BEP or a judicial appeal to the Maine Superior Court

# Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC)

## Site Law Certification Process

Maine UT Regions >>

- + LUPC is the planning and zoning authority for the unorganized (UT) and deorganized territories of Maine
- + DEP has permitting authority in the LUPC's service area if a project qualifies for Site Location of Development (Site Law)
  - Projects 20+ acres in size or creating 3+ acres of impervious surface qualify for Site Law
- + Site Law projects in the LUPC service area must obtain a Site Law Certification (SLC) from LUPC for DEP permit approval



# LUPC Zoning Review Process

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Opportunity

LUPC Certification

## Pre-application Meeting and Application Submission

- Applicants should schedule a pre-application meeting with the LUPC before submitting an application to the DEP to discuss the project with regional LUPC permitting staff
- LUPC staff will determine whether the project requires rezoning prior to requesting the SLC from the LUPC and filing a permit with the DEP



## Zoning Amendment (if required)

- Rezoning is required if the project is not an allowed use in the proposed location
- Transmission projects are an allowed use by permit or permit by special exception in most subdistricts
- Rezoning applications are processed by LUPC staff, but approval authority is held by the Commission, a board of appointed officials
  - Commission meetings are held monthly



## Site Law Certification (SLC) – Certification of Standards

- Applicants can apply for the SLC from the LUPC prior to filing a permit with DEP or simultaneously
- LUPC must certify to DEP that:
  - The project is an allowed use in the subdistrict(s) of the proposed location (zoning)
  - The project meets applicable land use standards not considered under DEP review
- LUPC must provide a certification to DEP within 90 days after accepting the request as complete or 60 days after the closure of a hearing if one was held

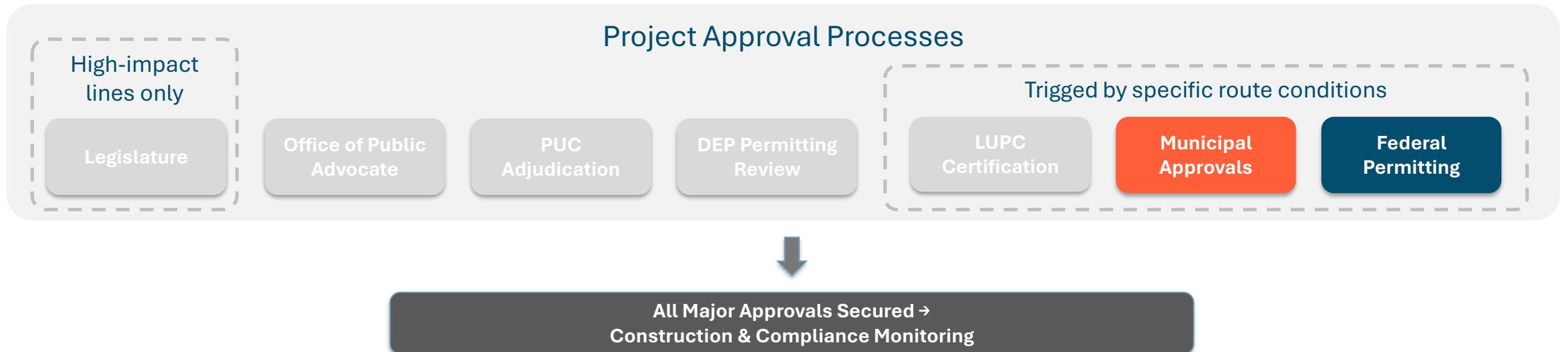


## Stakeholder Engagement

- + **Public notice of intent to file is required**
  - 7 days prior to filing a zoning application
  - 30 days prior to requesting Site Law Certification (SLC)
- + **The public may provide comments and request a public hearing**
  - In response to public notice, the public can submit written comments about the proposal
  - A public hearing is required if five or more commenters request a public hearing
- + **Staff decisions can be appealed by any person aggrieved within 30 days of the decision**

# Municipal Approvals and Federal Permits

- + Projects may require any number of municipal or federal approvals based on the location and impact of the project
- + Timelines and stakeholder engagement opportunities vary across permitting processes



# Municipal Approvals and Federal Permits

Municipal Approvals

Federal Permitting

## Municipal Land Use Permits

- Developers work with municipal officers to determine whether their projects require confirmation of compliance with existing zoning ordinances
- Required permits may include building, electrical, driveway/road opening, erosion control, or others
- Local authorities make determination of zoning compliance
- Municipal zoning may not override CPCN



## Locational Permits

- If a project is located within a public way, developer must receive approval from municipal or county licensing authority
- The licensing authority evaluates the application based on impact to public safety and avoidance of unreasonable interference with public travel



## Federal Permitting

- Federal approval is required if a transmission project crosses federal land, affects federally regulated resources (e.g., wetlands, navigable waters, protected species), or receives federal funding.
- The relevant federal agency (e.g., BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) issues the necessary authorization within its jurisdiction



## Stakeholder Engagement

- + **Municipal land use permitting processes vary; some require public hearings where testimony is open to the general public; others are administrative and do not require hearings**
- + **For locational permits, only abutters or owners of facilities in the public way may file objections, and a public hearing is required only if such objections are submitted**
- + **Federal permitting often triggers NEPA review requiring environmental analysis and public comment opportunities open to any interested party**

# Q&A and Discussion Guidelines

- **This is a meeting of the Stakeholder Group**
  - *We'll take questions and comments from observers if there is time*
- **It's OK to bring different perspectives**
  - *Show others the respect you'd want people to show you*
- **Please be brief**
  - *Share the space with others and send any additional feedback via email ([doer@maine.gov](mailto:doer@maine.gov))*
- **Please stay on topic**



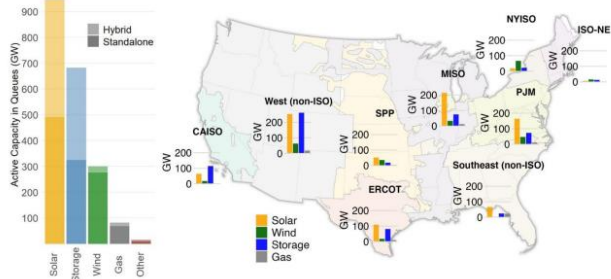
# Best Practices in Transmission Planning, Siting and Permitting



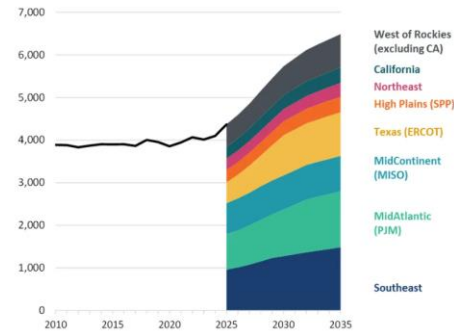
Energy+Environmental Economics

# Key Sources of Change in the Transmission Landscape

## New Resource Integration

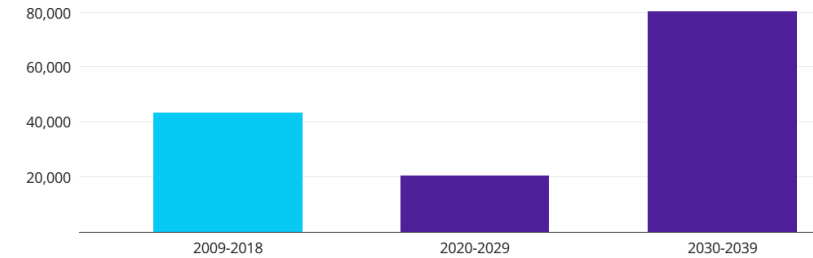


## Increasing Expectations for Load Growth



## Aging Transmission

By 2040, over 100,000 miles of transmission lines may need to be replaced



+ Need drivers for transmission will be covered in detail in the next stakeholder meeting

## FERC Order 1920

- + Sets new standards to modernize transmission planning processes and address longstanding challenges
- + ISO-NE compliance filing due June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027

# Challenges in Transmission Planning

## Who Pays and Who Decides?



### Cost allocation disputes

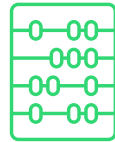
Disagreements over how project costs are distributed across states, utilities, and ratepayers can stall projects even when need is established



### Participation barriers

Limited technical capacity, resource constraints, or procedural complexity can prevent meaningful stakeholder engagement in planning decisions

## What Counts as Need?



### Selecting and quantifying benefit metrics

Differences over which benefits to include, how to measure them, and over what timeframe can materially shape planning outcomes



### Model uncertainty

Long-term forecasts for load, policy, technology, and fuel prices are inherently uncertain; stakeholders may disagree about key modeling assumptions that can significantly influence projected needs and solutions

## What Solutions are Considered?



### Incorporating non-traditional technologies

Planning processes may not be structured to systematically evaluate advanced transmission technologies alongside traditional infrastructure solutions



### Interregional collaboration

Misaligned planning frameworks and limited coordination across regions make it difficult to identify and advance interregional transmission projects

# Success Criteria for Transmission Planning

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*Planning is successful when:*

- + Transmission needs are identified through transparent, long-term, and scenario-based analysis that states and key stakeholders view as credible*
- + Cost allocation and technology choices are resolved early*
- + Projects advance from study to selection without prolonged disputes or re-litigation of core assumptions.*

# Transmission Planning Best Practices

## Closing Information Gaps

*Early engagement between planners, developers, states, and stakeholders helps align expectations by clarifying system needs, identifying solutions likely to gain support, and improving understanding of project benefits.*



### Best Practices:

1. Active state and stakeholder engagement
2. \*Early state involvement in cost allocation decisions

## Assessing All Available Solutions

*Planning processes should evaluate the full range of potential solutions, including advanced technologies and interregional transmission, to ensure needs are met with the most effective and cost-efficient options. Selections must also be right-sized to meet future needs*



### Best Practices:

1. \*Right-sizing for future needs
2. \*Consistent evaluation of advanced technologies (GETs & ATTs)
3. Interregional collaboration and solution assessment

## Comprehensive Modeling

*Using long planning horizons, multiple scenarios, and a broad set of benefit metrics helps more rigorously identify transmission projects that are beneficial across a range of futures.*



### Best Practices:

1. \*Scenario planning
2. \*Long-term model horizons
3. Broad benefit metrics
4. Portfolio-based solutions

# Transmission Planning Best Practices: Implementation Progress in Maine

## Closing Information Gaps

- ✓ *This Maine DOER led process is actively working to close this gap, by convening stakeholder sessions, carefully documenting the current landscape, and discussing areas for further improvement*

## Assessing All Available Solutions

- ✓ *Under Order 1920, ISO-NE is required to evaluate ATTs and assess right-sizing considerations for future needs*
- ✓ *Maine agencies have also pursued their own evaluations of GETs and ATTs*
  - *GETs are included in the Resolve, and will be discussed further in the next stakeholder session*
  - *The MPUC also published a report on GETs in 2025\**

## Comprehensive Modeling

- ✓ *Order 1920 also requires ISO-NE to conduct scenario planning and evaluate needs across a 20-year horizon. Additionally it recommends a broader set of benefit categories beyond production cost savings to include:*
  - *Reliability and resilience benefits*
  - *Public policy benefits*
  - *Reduced transmission energy losses and congestion*

? *Do stakeholders on the call have suggestions for additional actions that could help address barriers and actualize best practices here in Maine?*

# Challenges in Transmission Siting and Permitting

## Who Decides?



### Fragmentation of authority

Projects must navigate multiple permitting processes administered by different agencies with different timelines, documentation requirements, and regulatory standards



### Multi-jurisdictional benefit requirements

Projects must demonstrate benefits across several jurisdictions where impacts and benefits may be unevenly distributed

## How to engage?



### Lengthy and costly environmental review

Environmental reviews can significantly extend project timelines and increase costs



### Limited agency capacity

Staffing and resource constraints within permitting agencies can make it challenging to conduct the full depth of technical and economic analysis needed to evaluate complex transmission proposals

## How are impacts felt?



### Community Benefits and Impacts

Communities hosting infrastructure may perceive limited local benefits relative to visual, land use, or environmental impacts



### Revenue-Impact Alignment

Financial benefits (tax revenue, lower energy costs, reliability improvements) may accrue across the broader region rather than the specific communities hosting the infrastructure

# Success Criteria for Transmission Siting and Permitting

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*Siting and permitting are successful when:*

- + Projects move through coordinated, predictable review processes*
- + Projects garner durable host-community support resulting in timely approvals with limited legal or political reversals through:*
  - Clear communication of benefits*
  - Fair alignment between project impacts and local value*

# Transmission Siting and Permitting Best Practices

## Strengthening Capacity and Effective Participation

*Equipping states, agencies, and stakeholders to engage early and effectively leads to more informed decisions and reduces downstream conflict*



### Best Practices:

1. Building state and stakeholder capacity
2. Early and sustained stakeholder engagement
3. Structured stakeholder governance (e.g., NEPOOL)

## Clear Signals Around Transmission Needs

*Clearly establishing transmission need and priorities provides direction to planners and developers and streamlines permitting decisions.*



### Best Practices:

1. Publishing transmission priority signals
2. Streamlined need determination
3. Use of regional planning studies in permitting

## Delivering Community Value

*Proactively addressing community needs and ensuring host communities share in project benefits helps build trust and support for project approval.*

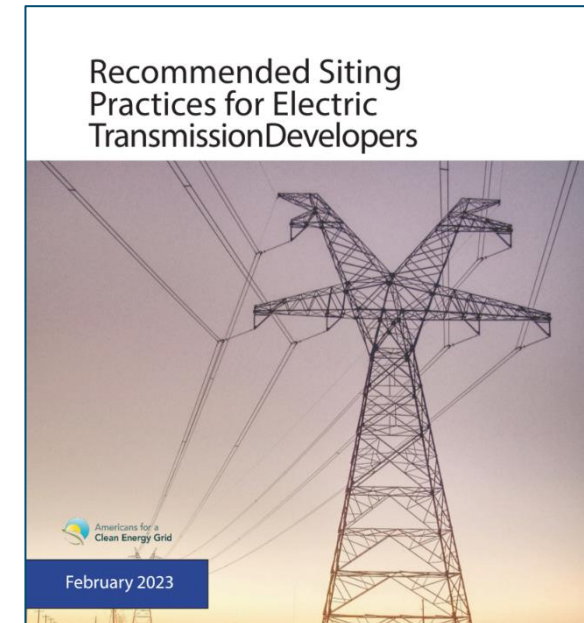
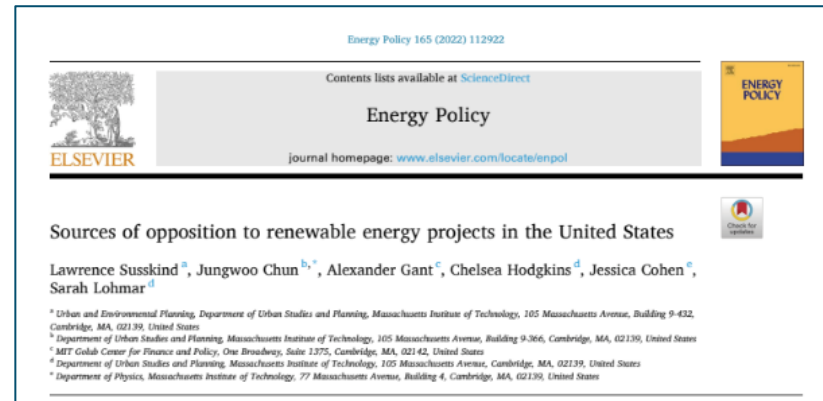
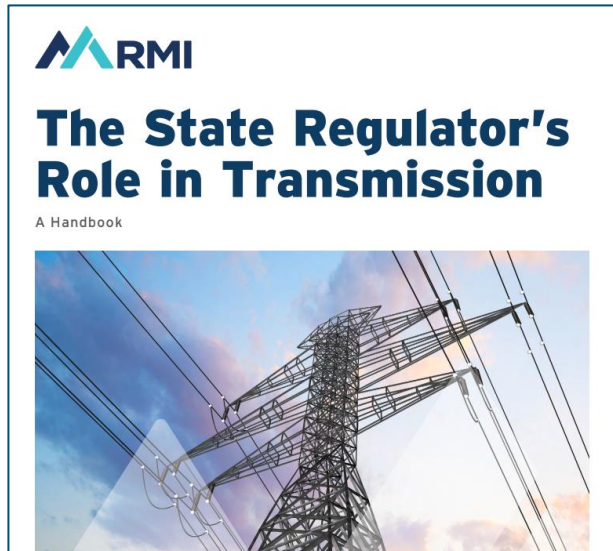
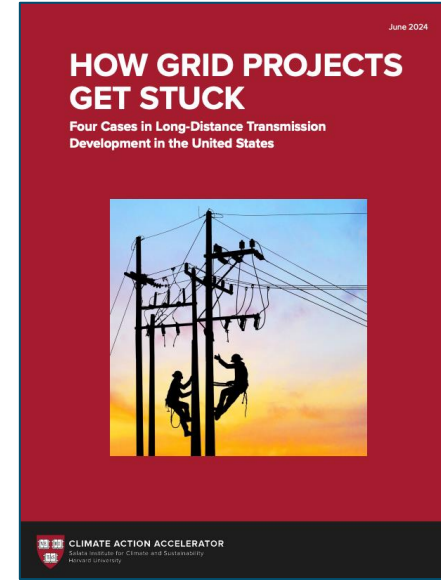
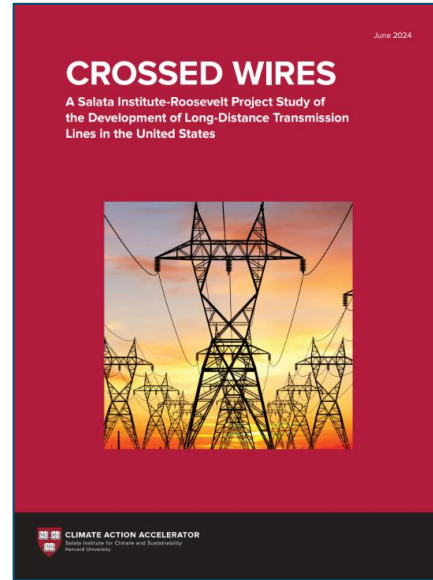
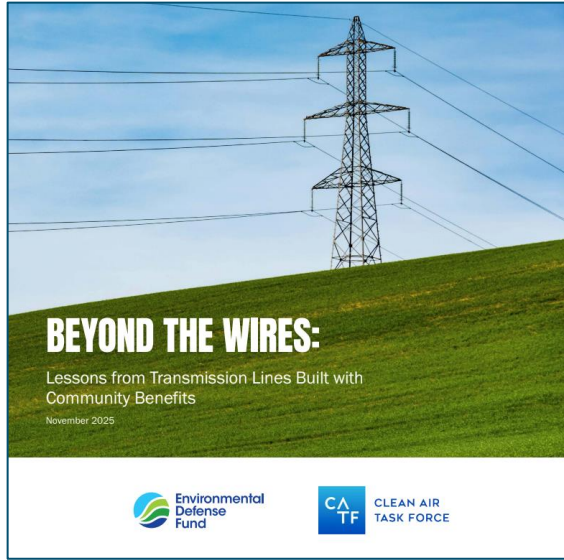


### Best Practices:

1. Community benefit sharing
2. PILOT structures
3. Incorporating community benefits in procurement
4. Organized community engagement

# Transmission Siting and Permitting: Engagement Best Practices

+ Where are we finding engagement best practice in the literature?



# Engagement Best Practice - Review From Other States

## Strengthening Capacity and Effective Participation

*Equipping states, agencies, and stakeholders to engage early and effectively leads to more informed decisions and reduces downstream conflict*



### Best Practices:

1. State-level coordination to provide technical assistance
2. Coordinate engagement touch points across relevant state regulators
3. Capacity Building Activities:
  - *Creation of materials that facilitate transparent information sharing*
  - *Community meetings to build foundational understanding*
  - *Engagement expectations and guidance for developers*

## Clear Signals Around Transmission Needs

*Clearly establishing transmission need and priorities provides direction to planners and developers and streamlines permitting decisions.*



### Best Practices:

1. State officials are clear and proactive about communicating transmission needs
2. State officials express support for projects that align with state goals.

## Delivering Community Value

*Proactively addressing community needs and ensuring host communities share in project benefits helps build trust and support for project approval.*



### Best Practices:

1. Implement structured public comment processes with data analysis to identify representative vs. duplicative feedback
2. Incorporate Community Benefits into regulatory review
3. Provide support to communities in discussing/negotiating benefits agreements
4. Create community advisory boards/groups

**Thank You!**



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# Q&A and Discussion

# Next Steps for Engagement

- DOER will conduct 3 additional stakeholder group meetings prior to the submission of the report.
- The meetings will continue to follow the content outlined in Section 1 of the Resolve.
  - **May 5, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to integrate new renewable resources, as well as to ensure reliability, improve market efficiency, or support the achievement of the State's policy goals; explore existing and emerging technology and construction methods
  - **June 2, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of the types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights-of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State; explore strategic undergrounding and a cost-benefit analysis of various undergrounding options
  - **August 5, 2026, 12pm-2pm:** Overview of the draft Maine Infrastructure Study and how its content evolved based on stakeholder input
- The study will be completed and submitted to the Legislature by September 1, 2026.





MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Energy Resources**

**Thank You**

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# Acronym Glossary

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- + **ATT:** Advanced Transmission Technology
- + **BEP:** Board of Environmental Protection
- + **BLM:** Bureau of Land Management
- + **CMS:** Case Management System
- + **CPCN:** Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
- + **DEP:** Department of Environmental Protection
- + **DMR:** Department of Marine Resources
- + **FERC:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- + **G&T:** Generation & Transmission
- + **GET:** Grid-Enhancing Technology
- + **GHG:** Greenhouse Gas
- + **IFW:** Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
- + **IOU:** Investor-Owned Utility
- + **ISO:** Independent System Operator
- + **LUPC:** Land Use Planning Commission
- + **NECEC:** New England Clean Energy Connect
- + **NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act
- + **NEPOOL:** New England Power Pool
- + **NESCOE:** New England States Committee on Electricity
- + **NPV:** Net Present Value
- + **NRPA:** Natural Resources Protection Act
- + **NWA:** Non-Wires Alternative
- + **PAC:** Planning Advisory Committee
- + **PILOT:** Payment in Lieu of Taxes
- + **PPA:** Power Purchase Agreement
- + **PUC:** Public Utilities Commission
- + **RFI:** Request for Information
- + **RFP:** Request for Proposals
- + **SLC:** Site Law Certification
- + **T&D:** Transmission & Distribution
- + **UT:** Unorganized Territories