

6.0 PERMITTING AND APPROVALS

6.1 Permitting and Approvals

Permits and approvals are required prior to construction of the proposed transmission line. Preparation of an EIS and the actual permitting processes are related but distinctly separate. The permitting process gives individual government decision makers the authority to grant (conditionally grant or deny) individual permit applications with requirements and conditions to eliminate or mitigate adverse environmental effects that are identified in the EIS.

Permits regulate many aspects of facility construction and operations, including the quality of construction, air quality requirements, and discharges to the environment. These permits would be obtained, as required, from the appropriate agency.

A number of federal environmental statutes address environmental protection, compliance, or consultation. Certain federal environmental requirements have been delegated to state authorities for enforcement and implementation. Although this chapter does not address pending legislation or future regulations, the regulatory environment is subject to change, and construction and operation of the projects must be conducted in compliance with all applicable regulations and standards.

As a federal agency, Western is not required to comply with state or local land use regulations. Nevertheless, Western would substantively comply with state and local requirements whenever practicable.

Table 6-1. Potential Permits and Approvals Required for Implementation

Administering Agency	Permit, Approval, or Requirement
Federal Agencies	
U.S. Forest Service	Record of Decision Plan of Operations Special Use Permits
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Record of Decision
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation Process Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Consultation Migratory Bird Treaty Act Consultation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 Permit
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Review of Floodplain / Wetlands Assessment Review of Environmental Impact Statement National Ambient Air Quality Standards State Implementation Plan NPDES Stormwater Permit
Office of Safety and Health Administration	Regulations and Standards for Transmission Lines
State and Local Agencies	
Department of Natural Resources	Consultation and Written Guidance
Department of Public Health and the Environment	Emissions Permit Water Quality Certification (401 Certification)
State Historical Preservation Office	Cultural Resources Clearance Section 106 Consultation
Department of Transportation	Utility Permit