



Workgroup on statewide e-permitting

Vision: Statewide E-permitting

A statewide e-permitting system is an interoperable, Web-based system or network that allows both businesses and individuals to conduct a wide range of building department-related business online, anywhere in the state, 24/7.

Statewide system features:

- Online application and purchase of building permits
- Online inspection scheduling
- E-submission and tracking of plans and projects
- E-tracking of inspections
- E-notification to contractors of project status
- Address locator
- Consistent permitting processes statewide
- Integrates (interoperates) with jurisdictions' existing permitting systems
- Operational 24/7
- Captures and tracks statewide construction activity data
- Allows data-sharing among the state, local building departments, fire and other public safety departments

E-permitting pilot

The Department of Consumer and Business Services through BCD has developed a pilot e-permitting Web site that is the first stage of a multi-stage effort to offer building department services online statewide and promote economic development.

The site, www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov allows contractors to apply and pay for over-the-counter mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits online. This Web site illustrates the potential of savings to business and governments.

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Background

One of Governor Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiatives gave DCBS the authority to implement an e-permitting pilot project in the Portland metro region. Launched in May 2005, the e-permitting pilot Web site was an instant favorite of contractors. In December 2005, House Interim Chair of Business, Labor & Consumer Affairs, Alan Brown, appointed the Statewide E-permitting Workgroup, including Rep. Mike Schaufler and Rep. Kevin Cameron, to explore expanding the successful e-permitting pilot into a fully interoperable, statewide system designed to save business and government time and money.

Statewide E-permitting System Study

At its first meeting, the workgroup recommended that BCD retain a consultant to research options for a statewide system.

Consultants' report and recommendations

Willamette Consulting Inc./Eclipse Solutions, the firm hired by the division to help research options for a statewide interoperable e-permitting system, recently completed its report. As part of their study, the consultants surveyed local building department programs to gather information about current permitting practices and electronic permitting capabilities. The consultant held four regional information meetings and invited local building department personnel to attend. The report, available on www.Oregon-epermitting.info cites the benefits, challenges and risks of a statewide system and concludes that a statewide e-permitting system is viable.

Report recommendations

Willamette Consulting Inc./Eclipse Solutions recommends that to move the initiative forward the state should take the following steps: define a funding mechanism, standardize permitting processes and business rules statewide for all building departments, conduct a competitive procurement for a system vendor, and develop a detailed budget analysis of the project.

Web site captures e-permitting workgroup progress

The latest news and developments of the statewide e-permitting project and legislative workgroup are available at: www.Oregon-epermitting.info. Interested parties may sign up on the site to receive updates.

Timeline

- August: Workgroup meets and reviews consultant's report.
- September 20: Present report to House Interim Committee on Business, Labor and Consumer Affairs

