

Feedback Session 5: Innovations in Air Permitting
September 7, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Tower Court C

Facilitator: Rob Brenner, U.S. EPA, Office of Policy, Analysis and Review

General Discussion Topic: What should the future direction for innovations in air permitting be, and who will play a role in implementing these innovations?

Background:

Permitting authorities are facing increasing pressure to improve service delivery and environmental results, and they are being asked to do so with fewer resources. To address these trends, EPA and States have implemented innovations in air permit architecture and air permitting processes that improve program efficiency and effectiveness. These advancements increase operational flexibility, streamline the permitting process, and reduce the administrative burden on permitting authorities and regulated sources, while protecting environmental quality and, in some cases, encouraging pollution prevention.

Continued interest in these innovations creates a unique window of opportunity for EPA, permitting authorities, and industry representatives to align air permitting activities and develop systems that promote, accelerate, and diffuse innovations in air permitting. Current EPA and State activities focus on flexible permitting approaches, general permitting programs, electronic tools and resources for permitting, process improvements using Lean and Six Sigma, “permitting by sector”, and permit improvements based on international experience. This breakout session will engage participants in active discussions on the future direction of air permit innovations and the roles and responsibilities involved in managing and expanding these efforts.

Specific Questions for Discussion:

1. Where is innovation needed in the permitting process?
2. What steps should be taken to enable innovation?
3. How can permitting authorities and industry participate in innovation?
4. How can EPA support and encourage innovation?