

Overview

Interbasin Transfer Review and Approval



Application for Approval Process

- A full application for approval under the ITA triggers an EIR under the MEPA process
- The Act and regulations require that the MEPA process be completed *BEFORE* the Commission can hold public hearings or make a decision on an application for approval
- The Secretary's Final Certificate on the EIR must be issued
- All information requested for ITA review (generally through the MEPA process) must have been received
- The WRC must accept the application as complete



Application for Approval Process, Continued

- The Commission then has 60 days to hold 2 public hearings, one in the donor basin and one in the receiving community.
- Staff recommendation to approve or deny the application made at next possible Commission meeting
- Within 2 weeks of presentation of the Staff Recommendation, an additional public hearing is held.
- A decision **MUST** be made within 60 days following the close of the final public hearing.



Criteria

- Eight Criteria that must be met (although not all of them may be applicable to the project)
 - Completion of the MEPA Process
 - All viable in-basin sources must have been developed or ruled out as not viable
 - All practical water conservation measures must have been implemented
 - For existing surface water sources, a forestry management plan must have been implemented
 - Reasonable in-stream flow in the donor basin must be maintained
 - For groundwater transfers, a pumping test must be conducted and provided with the application
 - The receiving community must have or be developing a local water resources management plan
 - Cumulative impacts must be considered