

Presidential Permits

November 19, 2008

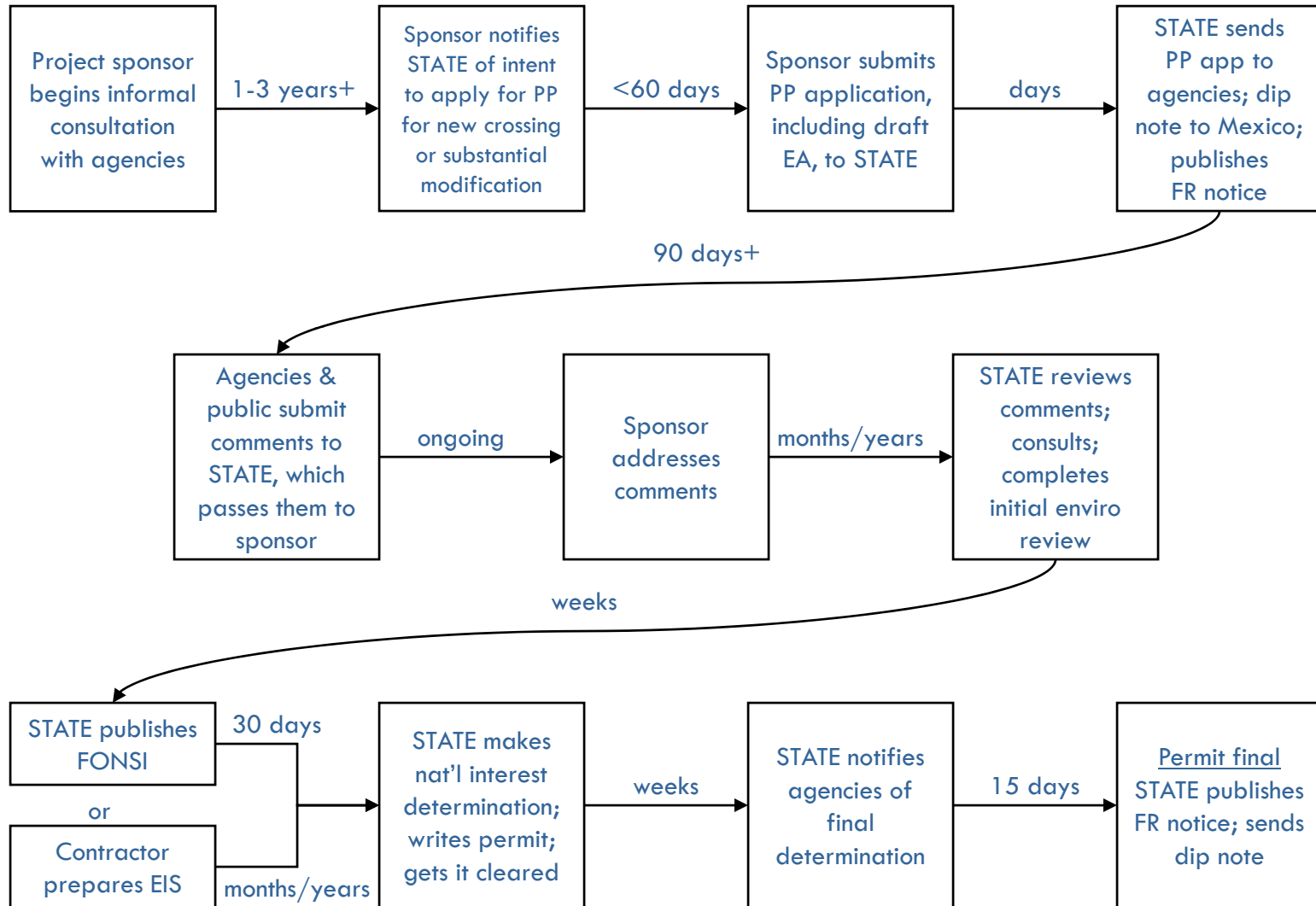


Legal Authority

- Executive Order 11423 (1968) authorizes the Secretary of State to issue Presidential permits for certain cross-border facilities if she finds them in the national interest.
- Expanded from bridges and tunnels to include at-grade crossings in 2004.
- Substantial modifications to an existing POE also require a permit or amendment.



Presidential Permit Process



The Players

- Lead Agency: Department of State
- Federal Agencies, including:
 - Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection & Coast Guard
 - Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration & Federal Railroad Administration
 - General Services Administration
 - International Boundary and Water Commission
- Other Partners:
 - State and local governments
 - Mexican government
 - Private sector



Ports of Entry



Current State of Permits

- 20 U.S.-Mexico permits issued since 1974
 - Most for bridges in Texas
 - One U.S.-Canada crossing permit issued
- Congress authorized older bridges; older land crossings have no permit
- 6 pending permit applications



Pending Permit Applications

Name	Site	Filed
Veterans Bridge at los Tomates	TX/Tamps	09/2008
Otay Mesa East POE	CA/BC	01/2008
Colombia Rail Bridge	TX/NL	08/2007
Laredo V Bridge (suspended)	TX/Tamps	2003
Laredo V Bridge (suspended)	TX/Tamps	2002
Austin Industries conveyer belt	CA/BC	2001



U.S. Efforts to Improve Process

- Agency commitment to 90-day deadline for initial comments on new applications
- Sunset provisions in permits
- Improve coordination of environmental review
- Increase outreach to applicants

