

Joining the Technology Acceptance and Reciprocity Partnership (TARP)

“Seven states have identified a common pathway for the reciprocal approval and permitting of environmental technologies. The pathway is based on common protocols that define data requirements for specific technologies, beginning with general requirements for all technology classes and continuing through to a detailed, technology-specific template for regulatory and/or permitting decisions.”¹ This effort had been called the 6 State MOU, with CA, MA, NJ, IL, NY, and PA being the initial participants; now the TARP effort. This effort includes documenting what states need from a verification program and/or technology vendor to increase knowledge and confidence in a technology. This evaluation can be used to deploy a technology.

Additional states that wish to be part of the TARP effort need to consider the expectations listed in this document and commit to actively participating at an appropriate level. As a guide for time commitment in participating with this process, one full-time employee, as totaled from all staff that may participate from across an agency, can be expected.

- The state must review and accept the Strategy and Tier I guidance for Interstate Reciprocity for Technology Acceptance. Official acceptance requires a letter of acceptance into TARP or the signature of a Memorandum of Agreement by the agency head.
- States should identify priority Tier II areas of interest. If interest is supported by at least two other states, the initiating state can volunteer to be the lead or seek another to take the leadership role. Tier II technologies presented from outside of this established process will be considered for review.
- If interested in one of the existing Tier II development teams, the state should identify and support at least one staff person to participate in the team. Participation can vary from a leadership role, participation in development, or a review before adoption for use. The participant must be able to access staff to review draft documents and senior management to approve final draft documents.
- A consensus process is used to develop the Tier guidelines. Minority positions can be noted but the TARP goal and strategy documents look for a common vision to expedite interstate deployment of technologies.
- Implementation of the accepted protocols requires that program staff be trained and managers briefed on the tiered approach. Training also extends to the public, local governments, etc, as necessary to disseminate information to other affected entities. The states working on the team will develop this training to disseminate information on the tiered process and pathways to reciprocal technology approval.
- Participation in the shared databases being developed, which serve as a vehicle to exchange information between the states and provide information to technology vendors, is required. Each state entering information into the database will ensure that it has appropriately documented the quality of its data and will audit this information for quality assurance. Prior to full implementation of a Tier II, each state will input all available standards impacting on or by that given class of technology. Each state is responsible for continually providing updated information, as it becomes available, regarding new decisions, modifications and any outcomes that may effect the permitting process.
- Each state must participate in an evaluation of alternative regulatory approaches offered by the participating states and either accept, work towards acceptance or define how the approach could improve it's own state-specific environmental performance or policy goals.
- Each state must evaluate it's participation in the TARP process and agree to document the benefits that are realized including those that result from the deployment of a new technology, through participation in the TARP.

¹ Quoted from page 1, “Strategy for Reciprocal State Acceptance of Environmental Technologies.