



Energy Infrastructure Conflicts







WOPPR

Workshop on Policy Process Research



⁷ Transmission Lines (n=125)



Solar Projects (n=298)



Wind Projects (n=152)



n/a



n/a

0

1

2

3

4

5

8

9

10

11

12



Gas Pipelines (n=44)

Solar Projects (n=298)

n=152)

- Is higher with pipelines and wind than with solar and transmission lines
- Is higher in counties with more residents affiliated with the Democratic
- Is lower in counties with more Black and Hispanic residents
 - But this pattern varies by infrastructure type



Interview and News Media Discourse Cases

	Natural Gas Pipeline	Transmission	Solar	Wind
Canceled	(PA, NY)	Plains & Eastern Clean Line (OK,TN, AR)	Bear Ridge Solar (NY)	Dairy Air Wind (VT)
High conflict		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Na Pua Makani Wind (HI)
	Pipeline		California Flats Solar (CA)	Strauss Wind (CA)
Low conflict	(OK,TX)	1	Misae Solar Park (TX)	Grady Wind (NM) 3

Statements by Sentiment and Infrastructure Type



Pro/Anti Statements by Participant All Infrastructure Types



The types and positions of participants in media discourse are similar across infrastructure type

- Opponents = nonprofits and members of the general public
- Proponents = energy companies
- Mixed = government
- Limited engagement = other for-profit organizations

In high conflict cases, people on opposing sides often talk past each other in how they frame the debates

Discourse differs over the lifespan of proposed projects

- Higher conflict projects = ongoing and competing discourse
- Medium conflict projects = competing discourse in early stages
- Lower conflict projects = pro discourse dominant

Thank You!

Tanya Heikkila (<u>tanya.heikkila@ucdenver.edu</u>) Christopher M. Weible (<u>chris.weible@ucdenver.edu</u>)

This research was supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and several fantastic research assistants: KD Park, Sharon Smolinski, Jill Yordy and Jongeun You





Workshop on Policy Process Research

References

You, J., C. M. Weible, & , T. Heikkila (forthcoming). Exploring instigator and defender policy scenarios in the siting of energy infrastructure. *Politics & Policy*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.12442</u>

You, J., Yordy, J., C. M. Weible, K. Park, K., T. Heikkila, & D. Gilchrist. 2021. Comparing policy conflict on electricity transmission line sitings. *Public Policy and Administration*. Advance online publication. <u>https://doi.org/10.1177/09520767211036800</u>

You, J., T. Heikkila, C.M. Weible, K. Park, S. Smolinski, and J. Yordy. 2021. "Policy Conflict in Energy Infrastructure Siting in the U.S." Denver, CO, School of Public Affairs. <u>http://digital.auraria.edu/IR00000293/00001</u>

You, J., J. Yordy, K. Park, T. Heikkila, and C. M. Weible. 2020. "Policy conflicts in the siting of natural gas pipelines." *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 22(4): 501-517.

Yordy, J., J. You, K. Park, C.M. Weible, and T. Heikkila. 2019. "Framing Contests and Policy Conflicts over Gas Pipelines." *Review of Policy Research*, 36(6): 736-756.

Extra Slides

Conflict-Attention Intensity by Project



The intensity scores are statistically significant across infrastructure types (One-Way ANOVA, p<0.000)

