



**Solar Permitting Issues
(Not So Big Easy)
in
New Orleans**

April 1, 2009

2nd Annual Solar America Cities Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

**John McGowin, Energy Manager
Office of Recovery and Development Administration**

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. Ray Nagin, Mayor

Current Permitting Barriers to PV

- **Inspectors are unfamiliar with the technology.**
- **Permit requirements are inconsistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.**
- **Interconnection standards are lengthy and inconsistent.**
- **Safety and Permits' Electrical Permit Application cannot accommodate specifics of the PV system.**
- **Permits are difficult to track.**
- **Building Permits are valuation based which discourages installation of larger systems.**

Current Permitting Barriers to SHW

- **Inspectors are unfamiliar with the technology.**
- **Permit requirements are inconsistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.**
- **With Sewerage and Water Board outside of Safety and Permits a contractor must fill out at least two different permits and get at least two different inspections.**
- **Worse case scenario contractor will need to pull four permits and get four different inspections.**
- **None of the current Permits can accommodate specifics of SHW system.**
- **Permits are difficult to track.**

Permitting Solutions Achieved

- **Streamlined Interconnection Agreement.**
- **Implemented communication protocol between City's Safety and Permits Department and Utility.**
- **Started discussions to create separate permit applications. (One Stop Shopping)**
- **Gathered support to waive all fees.**
- **Decreased net metering wait time from months to days.**
- **Met with local mechanical and plumbers' unions to discuss SHW permitting pitfalls.**
- **Received proposal from IAPMO for inspector training.**