Technical Assistance Request

Overview

We are the creators of SolarDesignTool, the first and only software that allows users to design a fully-engineered PV system and generate a permit package at the click of a button. We completed this feature in 2017, and will soon be releasing a new version of the tool, Lyra, which will reduce the total time needed to complete a design and generate a permit package from an average of 25 minutes to as little as 10 minutes. We currently charge users a volume-based rate of $49 to $85 per project for permit packages and money-back AHJ acceptance guarantee.

The AHJ Requirements Analytics Engine will leverage acceptance data from Lyra. The engine will help us keep Lyra's permit packages up to date by providing insights into what works and what doesn't on the AHJ level.

	Lyra	Other Permit Package Providers	Other PV Design Apps
Design Costs			
Proposal-ready sales design	✓	N/A	✓
Permit-ready fully-engineered design	✓	✓	N/A
Permit package document costs			
Monetary costs	As low as $49	$150+	N/A
Turnaround time	Instant	24–48 hours or more	N/A
Lack of consistency	Consistent format makes document review less cumbersome.	Format varies depending on designer & project.	N/A
Human errors that result in additional revisions	Software-generated permit packages eliminate human typos & errors. Revisions are free!	Miscalculations, typos, and errors can result in revisions that drive up the cost.	N/A
Permitting costs			
Lack of standardized requirements for the over 20,000 AHJs	Lyra's AHJ Requirements Analytics Engine will aid the industry in creating de-facto permitting standards.		N/A
Turnaround time	Greatly improved with standards created with insights from Lyra's AHJ Requirements Analytics Engine.		N/A

Challenges

We'd like to work with NREL and get input from stakeholders about the requirements for the database structure. An approach that maintains forward-compatibility with new solar technologies will be an important part of the success of this project. We'd also like NREL's help in identifying the most relevant data points to aid the SolarAPP initiative. We will attend planning meetings held by Jeff Cook at NREL regarding SolarAPP to offer our insights, as well as hear from other industry stakeholders and AHJs themselves. We could use NREL's input in targeting relevant metrics and identifying the best approach to synthesizing reports with the analytics engine.