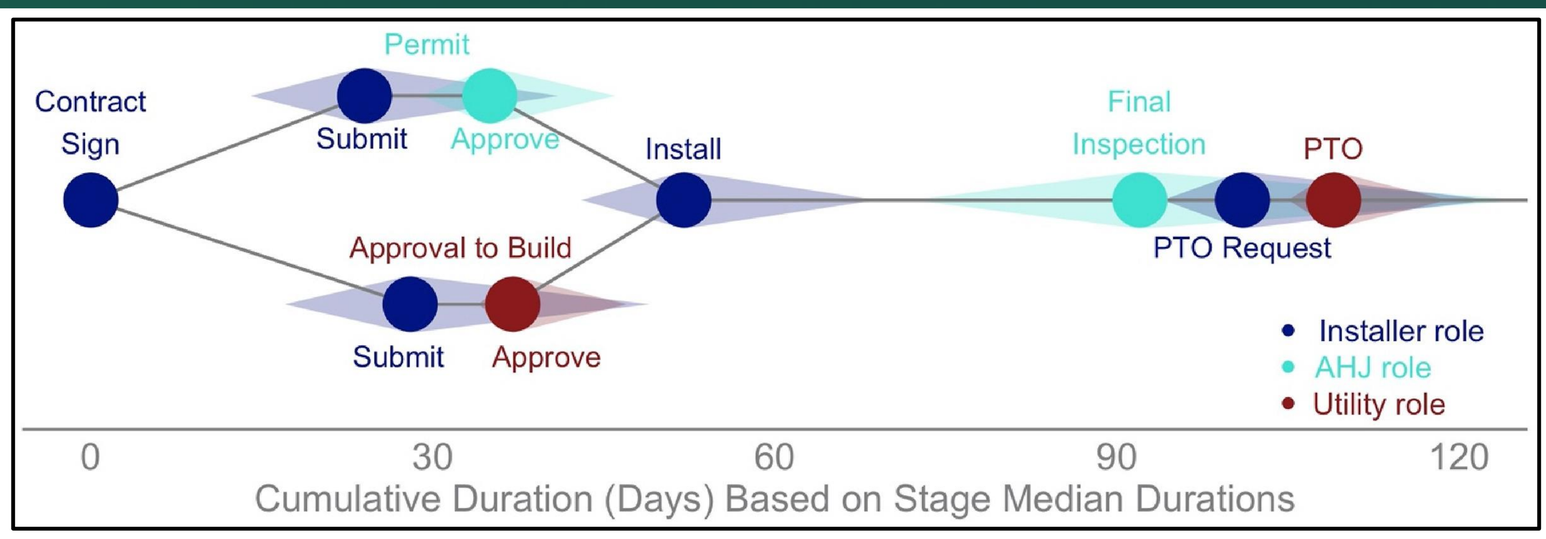
Online, instant permitting has the strongest duration-reduction effects among permitting practices

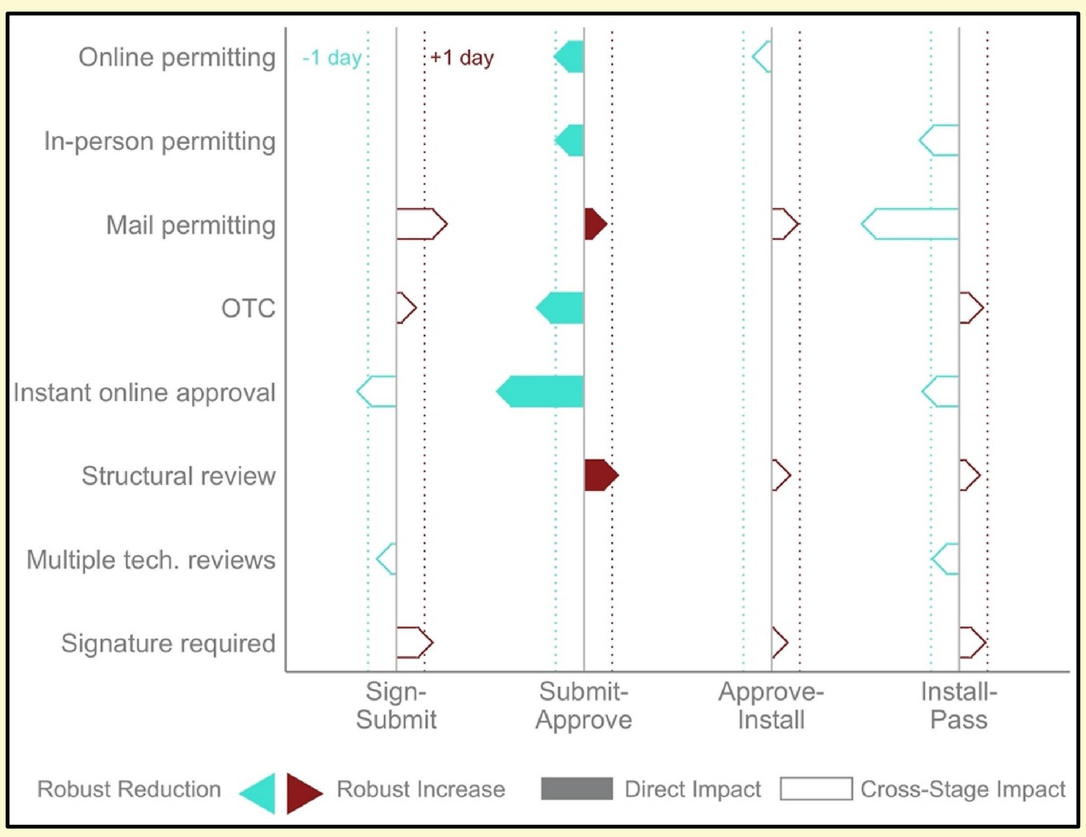
Streamlining Permitting Timelines for Residential Rooftop Solar



Typical PII process, points represent medians, areas are inter-quartile ranges (25th to 75th percentiles).

Introduction

Permitting, Inspection, and Interconnection (PII) processes, timelines, and related costs vary across the nation. Despite efforts to streamline PII processes, data-driven baselining of existing processes and timelines are unknown. This work identifies **(1) Median PII cycle timelines** and **(2) Impacts of requirements on cycle timelines.**



Timeline impacts of permitting requirements across four project stages. Blue bars indicate a robust reduction on project durations while red bars indicate a robust increase. Solid bars indicate direct impacts, whereas transparent bars indicate cross-stage impacts. Lengths of the bars are proportional to the change in days at the median duration.

Methods

This project uses system-level data from **248,741** residential solar systems installed from 2015 through 2020.

Results

Instant online approvals have the strongest duration-reduction effects among the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) practices.

Discussion

The effect on the sign-submit stage suggests that **installers submit permits more expeditiously in AHJs with instant permitting**. Additionally, models suggest that install-pass durations are shorter in AHJs with instant online permitting, directly countering the hypothesis that instant permits could cause post-install delays

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References

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