Exploring Ways to Improve Working with Consultants During Pipeline Permitting Processes

July 18, 2018
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Eastern

Presenter:
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Association of State Wetland Managers

Photo courtesy of FERC
Addressing an Unexpected, Pressing Need

Expanding gas industry
New regions, new states
Complex ecological processes
Complex permitting processes

“Like drinking from a firehose”

Turnover in both permitting and consulting staff
High stakes for all parties
“Things could have been done better/been avoided”
Expansion expected to continue for the foreseeable future
The Importance of Shared Understanding and Dialogue

- What works in one place does not necessarily work in another (BMPs & Context)
- What are the relevant permitting process steps, points of access, timelines?
- Language and understanding - Terminology, acronyms
- What information/resources are available to help?
- Examples of the good, the bad and the ugly
Key Areas of Concern Identified

1. Barriers to Effective, Efficient permitting
2. Understanding Pipeline Permitting Processes
3. How to consider Cumulative Impacts
4. Best Management Practices
Working with Consultants

- Role of Intermediaries
- Critical Element of State Permitting Process
- Often work in multiple states
- Differing levels of expertise/knowledge
- Critical component of permitting process
- Nothing applies universally (no recipe book or cookie cutter)
Development of a Tool to Encourage this Dialogue

- What should both sides be thinking about?
- What are common disconnects? How do we overcome these?
- What are questions I should be asking myself or others?
- What are some tips that could improve these connections?
Improving the Information Pipeline

A Forthcoming Support Document from ASWM

A document to help regulators and consultants

- Develop effective working relationships
- Establish common language and understandings
- Identify areas for improvement
- Clarify expectations
- Improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency
- Find and share resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Webinar Title</th>
<th>Delivery Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improving the Information Pipeline: Working with Consultants During Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Processes</td>
<td>TODAY!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Adverse Effects of Pipeline Development on Wetlands and Other Aquatic Resources</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 24th @ 3pm Eastern (Register Now!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizontal Directional Drilling: Context and Considerations for Pipeline Planning and Permitting</td>
<td>Early Fall 2018</td>
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<td>Pipeline Permitting 101: An Overview for State and Tribal Regulators</td>
<td>Late Fall 2018</td>
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Online Resource Webpage:

- Policy Brief on Barriers, Challenges and Potential Solutions
- Language Supports
- Sample State Permitting Process Maps
- Adaptable Template for Developing Process Maps
- List of 180 best practices with hyperlinks to sources
- Archived training webinar recordings (4 webinars)
- White Paper on Considering Cumulative Adverse Effects of Pipeline Development on Wetlands
- Support Document for Regulators and Consultants

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Handing the Controls Over to Our Presenter