Improving the Information Pipeline: A Resource to Help Regulators and Consultants Navigate the Linear Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Process

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Association of State Wetland Managers Webinar

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Tight Oil/Shale Gas Plays
Natural Gas Pipelines
Large Interstate Pipelines
The Need for this Resource

- Recent natural gas development
- Numerous new pipelines
- Unprecedented number of permit applications
- Miscommunications, lack of common language can lead to delays, inefficiencies, and poor protection of water resources
Checklists

- Each chapter ends with a checklist
- Key questions to get regulators and consultants on the same page

Don’t Forget to Think About:

- Is the proposed activity covered under NWP 12, or is an individual permit required?
- Is a §401 Certification required for this project?
- Is the project also regulated by FERC and/or other state, county, and local laws, regulations, plans, or ordinances, and if so, how do these other regulatory processes impact the timeline?
Working with Consultants Subworkgroup

- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Consultants
Understanding the Permitting Process

- This resource focuses on:
  - Natural gas pipelines (not oil)
  - State §401 Certifications (not federal or local permits, certificates, regulations)

- Process maps
Pipeline Terms and Language

- Glossary
  - Master glossary, others

- Acronyms
  - Master acronym list, others

- Language

- Consultants and regulators need to speak the same language

- Be careful about multi-state projects
Cumulative Impacts to Aquatic Resources

- From the Cumulative Impacts Subworkgroup

ASWM Webinar
Tuesday, July 24
3:00 pm ET
Best Practices for an Effective §401 Process

- From the BMP Subworkgroup
  - Administrative
  - Pipeline development
  - Legal/regulatory

- Special considerations
Creating Constructive Relationships Among Parties

- Relationships and history between entities and individuals play a critical role

Don’t Forget to Think About:
- What are the relationships among the involved parties? Is there legal basis for these roles?
- Are there historic relationships between the parties? Are these relationships positive or negative? Have staff changed over time, leading to potential relationship changes?
Case Studies and Lessons Learned

- Goal: Prevent avoidable mistakes

- Case studies:
  - Mariner East 2
  - Atlantic Sunrise
Key References and Training Resources

- Reports and webinars from:
  - ASWM
  - Federal agencies
  - State agencies

Resources will be posted at: www.aswm.org
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