



# Exploring Ways to Improve Working with Consultants During Pipeline Permitting Processes



*Photo courtesy of FERC*

**July 18, 2018**

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Eastern

**Presenter:**

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Association of State

Wetland Managers

# 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



EPA Wetland Program  
Development Grant

- 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*



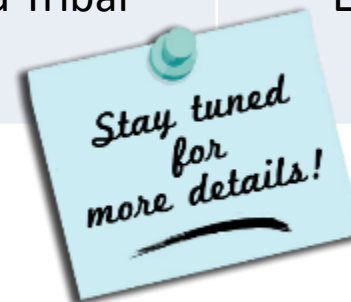
A document to help regulators *and* consultants

- Develop effective working relationships
- Establish common language and understandings
- Identify areas for improvement
- Clarify expectations
- Improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency
- Find and share resources



# ASWM Pipeline Permitting Webinar Series

Webinar Title	Delivery Date
Improving the Information Pipeline: Working with Consultants During Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Processes	TODAY!
Cumulative Adverse Effects of Pipeline Development on Wetlands and Other Aquatic Resources	Tuesday, July 24 <sup>th</sup> @ 3pm Eastern <b>(Register Now!)</b>
Horizontal Directional Drilling: Context and Considerations for Pipeline Planning and Permitting	Early Fall 2018
Pipeline Permitting 101: An Overview for State and Tribal Regulators	Late Fall 2018







[www.aswm.org](http://www.aswm.org)

## 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



Handing the Controls Over to Our Presenter