

Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction Virtual Agenda

September 14–15, 2021



Committee Chair - Alex Miller, Environmental Specialist at NextEra Energy Resources

Environmental Permitting Sessions

Construction Sessions

Day 1 Tuesday, September 14

9:00-10:30am

General Session I: Welcome & Keynote

Opening Remarks

Suzanne Ogle

President & CEO, Southern Gas Association

Alex Miller

Environmental Specialist, NextEra Energy Resources

Keynote Speaker

Angela John

Director of Business Development, Williams Companies

"An Industry in Transition"

Stakeholders and communities alike are asking oil & natural gas producers and operators to "think outside the box" and develop new ways to approach our shared sustainable future. Williams Companies is actively seeking ways to integrate renewable energy sources into conventional natural gas transportation and processing operations. Williams was the first North American midstream company to commit to actionable climate targets. In 2020, Williams set a measurable goal of 56% absolute reduction from 2005 levels in companywide Scop1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, creating a path to reach net zero by 2050. Ms. John is developing Williams' strategic implementation plan to achieve net zero and grow new business to enable our low carbon future.

10:45 – 11:45am

ESG Metrics for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Disclosure

This presentation compares and contrasts greenhouse gas reporting metrics specified by different ESG reporting frameworks.

11:45am – 1:00pm

Lunch Energy Break - Mindful Moments-- Sponsored by Hyatt

1:00-2:00pm

Embedding ESG Objectives into Front-End Planning

Companies across the world, including SGA member companies, are focusing on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategy development and disclosure. See how highlighting the desired outcomes within your ESG strategy can lend itself to more holistic front-end planning that drives business value and aligns with growing stakeholder expectations related to sustainability. This session is designed to provide practical steps and resources for your planning team to drive robust sustainably-driven decision-making.

2:00-3:00pm

Achieving Sustainability Through Restoration

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Restoring areas that have been impacted regardless of the purpose, has been required for quite some time. However, the opportunity to acquire benefits beyond regulatory compliance afford opportunities through restoration that are quite timely. This presentation will provide an overview of the natural capital that can be generated through targeted restoration and the additional goals that can be achieved, including sustainability. The presentation will also outline tools that can be utilized to inventory and appreciate the additional values that are generated through the restoration project.

Virtual Stakeholder Engagement – Past, Present, and Future

3:00-4:00pm

This high-impact session will showcase the current tools, technology, and best practices for virtual engagement and provide a glimpse into the future of stakeholder outreach trends. This interactive session will review current factors that go into effective stakeholder engagement planning and key decisions to consider for reaching your target audience. Come join the session and have fun as we look into the past, present, and future of virtual stakeholder engagement.

4:00-5:00pm

General Session II: FERC Updates

Dave Swearingen, Branch Chief,
Office of Energy Projects, Division of Gas - Environment and Engineering
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

“Catching up with FERC After a Year of Masking and Vaxxing”

In this discussion, FERC staff will present several notable changes, challenges, and policies within the Commission as well as within other government agencies that affect how the FERC’s Division of Gas—Environment and Engineering reviews applications for natural gas projects. Topics will include the Division’s recent and ongoing environmental oversight taking into account COVID restrictions; an introduction to the Commission’s new Office of Public Participation; the new regulations concerning Clean Water Act permitting and NEPA processing; FERC’s NEPA reviews that include augmented greenhouse gas, climate change, and environmental justice discussions; the implications of FERC’s “Rule 871”; and current construction and compliance issues, including requests for nighttime construction.

Day 2 Wednesday, September 15

8:00 – 9:00am

Show Me the Data: FERC Environmental Information Requests

Ever gotten an environmental data request from the FERC that you didn't expect? Ever wondered if you are alone in getting questioned on certain topics? We crunched the data behind the environmental data requests from the last few years and invite you to come take a deep dive into trends, hot topics, and the areas for improvement. We'll show you the numbers and then lead a lively discussion with industry experts, including project managers from pipeline companies, consultants, and FERC.

Pipeline Replacements & Upgrades in Congested Corridors

It's just replacing a couple pipelines in a 5-mile corridor; this should be easy... right. Project challenges can be complex when planning and constructing in congested, historic corridors. This roundtable will explore engineering, environmental, and construction perspectives: project and permit planning, regulatory differences based on the flow product, construction planning and execution, foreign lines, and unanticipated discovery of contamination.

9:30 – 10:30am

HDD Permitting – It’s Not Just a FERC Thing

Most of us are aware of how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state environmental agencies are considering the planning and permitting of horizontal directional drills (HDDs). In 2019 the FERC issued a guidance

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Implementation – Chasing a Moving Target

In practice, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has been seen as an ambiguous law, sometimes enforced with punitive actions to its interpreted violations. In recent years, through Federal efforts intended to

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document for the development of HDD monitoring, inadvertent return response, and contingency plans, and states like Pennsylvania and New Jersey have developed robust regulatory and permitting requirements for the use of HDD during pipeline construction. But what about other states and non-FERC regulated pipeline projects? Some states are beginning to regulate HDD crossings under state regulations that protect water quality, stream habitats, and state-listed wildlife and vegetation species.

clarify the Act particularly related to unintentional take, implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has been in a state of flux. This presentation will summarize current and proposed laws and agency policies related to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act followed by a subsequent panel discussion that will explore how gas industry companies and consultants are addressing the shifting interpretation and implementation of protections to migratory birds on recent projects.

11:00 –12:00pm

Beyond FERC: Building a Non-Traditional NEPA Document using Third-Party Consultants

Third-party contracting is a common vehicle used by lead agencies to prepare National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for energy projects across the United States. This session will focus on projects in which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is not the lead agency. The presenters will discuss various agency requirements, common issues, and lessons learned.

Drone Technology in Environmental Workflows

The use of drones as tools for streamlining environmental workflows is growing exponentially as more and more organizations realize the increasing benefits. Drones can offer a safer and quicker option for performing many of the environmental requirements that project teams routinely face including: LiDAR data, Thermal Imaging, and 3D site modeling. The project types range from Wetland Mitigation Banking, to site mapping for permitting, to thermal studies on the bat hibernacula and effect of hot water releases on fish population. On a wider scale, Drones have been incorporated to monitor daily changes for environmental cleanup on spill sites. The point clouds and 3D surfaces created from the drone data help accurately calculate volumes of excavation in impacted areas as well as monitor the amount of clean backfill. These are all innovative uses of the drone technology that go far beyond wildlife monitoring and nest health studies.

12:00 – 1:00pm

Lunch Energy Break - Mindful Moments-- Sponsored by Hyatt

1:00 – 2:00pm

Navigating with No Map: How the Definition, Then Re-Defining of America’s Waters Have Impacted Project Development

With both the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” and the permitting mechanisms themselves in limbo, the status of Clean Water Act Section 404 is in disarray. Midstream operators and their consultants are coming up with creative and innovative ways to find their way in a permitting landscape fraught with uncertainty, charting a course for their projects with no official map. This

Restored Crossings: When and Where to Apply Stream Restoration Techniques to Protect Exposed Pipelines

Maintenance of existing rights-of-way often involve dealing with exposed pipelines near stream crossings. Streams often shift over time. This adjustment can lead to erosion of the streambed and streambanks, exposing pipelines or other infrastructure to threats such as hydraulic pressure, buoyancy, debris collisions, or pipe vibration and fatigue. Under these conditions, managers can be faced with relocating the pipe,

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session will outline the many interesting ways we as an industry are addressing this uncertainty to help support development and project outcomes.

performing localized streambank stabilization, or employing stream restoration techniques to provide long-term protection. When localized stabilization is the preferred approach, selection of techniques is often determined by what will protect the pipeline without consideration of the stream context surrounding it. However, due to site conditions, manager preferences, and regulatory considerations, techniques from the disciplines of stream restoration and habitat enhancement can provide cost-effective alternatives to traditional hard-armoring by concrete or stone depending on the site context. Using past experience and a series of decision analysis tools, it was determined that geomorphic context should be factored as a foremost consideration when evaluating the most stable and cost-effective approach to correcting exposed pipelines. One of the most critical factors in assessing the feasibility of stabilization options is the height and orientation of exposed pipes relative to the stream's bankfull elevation.

2:30– 3:30pm

Poke Patch Historic District and Underground Railroad Research Alternative Mitigation - A Case Study in Creative Alternative Mitigation for Projects Within a Historic District

Poke Patch, Ohio is a historic nineteenth century Free Black community with historical connections to the Underground Railroad.

There is little information known about Poke Patch, its residents, and their historic connections to the Underground Railroad. Join us for a session to explore how TC Energy and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office successfully collaborated to create an alternative mitigation project that provides a foundation of historical information on Poke Patch. The goal of which is to aid and guide future researchers on their quest to identify properties associated with Underground Railroad Activities.

Methane Rules and Compliance

This session will highlight the new methane rules and regulations impacting the natural gas industry as well as some of the technology available to aid in compliance activities.

Protected Species Planning and Management During Project Construction: What Did We Get Ourselves Into?

The focus of this session is to discuss the potential pitfalls encountered by projects with regard to threatened and endangered species concerns. Across the country, project planners, permittees, and builders are faced with a complex network of species

protections at the federal, state, and local levels. As a result, many projects are committed to monitoring for species impacts during the construction phase. The panel will discuss important aspects of managing this process from start to end, drawing on lessons learned from past projects.

4:00–5:00pm

Where in the World is NEPA Sandiego?

Where is NEPA? Where has it been? Where will it go? With the changes to NEPA's implementing regulations in 2020 and the shift in presidential administration, this panel will explore, analyze,

Considering Project Effects on Historic Landscapes

This session will educate attendees on a seldom considered cultural resource, historic landscapes.

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and anticipate what industry may encounter during future project applications. This panel will discuss NEPA topics that are receiving particular attention from agencies and the courts, including cumulative effects, alternatives, climate change/greenhouse gases, and environmental justice. The panel will also provide insight as to how various agencies are internally managing the direction (or lack thereof) for analyzing and producing NEPA documents. Please bring your thoughts and insights and questions to add to the discussion.

It will discuss permitting challenges related to this class of resource and examine ways to avoid impacting them.