



TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING & CONSTRUCTION AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2-4 | Crowne Plaza Hotel, French Quarter

Monday, Feb 2

SESSION	TIME		TRACK
Registration Open	10:00AM	5:00PM	
Lunch on Your Own		12:30 PM	
Welcome to New Orleans	12:30PM	1:00PM	General Session
What's Happening in Washington?	1:00PM	2:00PM	General Session
Refreshment Break	2:00PM	2:15PM	

SESSION 1

Protecting the Past, Powering the Future- Section 106 Compliance for Pipelines and Linear Energy Projects Amid Agency Cutbacks and Regulatory Uncertainty	2:15PM	3:15PM	Environmental Permitting
Permitting, Construction and Restoration of the Evangeline Pass Expansion Project	2:15PM	3:15PM	Construction
Navigating and Managing Air Permitting and Compliance in an Uneven and Evolving Landscape	2:15PM	3:15PM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Networking Break	3:15PM	3:30PM	

SESSION 2

Fast-Tracking Energy Development: NEPA Alternative Arrangements	3:30PM	4:30PM	Environmental Permitting
Pipeline Planning and Construction in the Arid West – A Wild Adventure and a Unique Challenge	3:30PM	4:30PM	Construction
Air Permitting Essentials: Tanks, NSPS Kc, and More	3:30PM	4:30PM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Networking Reception	4:30PM	6:00PM	

Tuesday, Feb 3

Registration Open/ Badge Pick-Up	7:30AM	4:00PM	
Permitting at the Speed of Demand: Is Washington Finally Listening?	8:00AM	9:00AM	Keynote Address: Amos Hochstein
Refreshment Break	9:00AM	9:15AM	

SESSION 3

Environmental Justice in a Shifting Landscape	9:15 AM	10:15 AM	Environmental Permitting
Pipeline Waterway Crossings- Risk and Resource Management	9:15AM	10:15AM	Construction
Common Pitfalls in Air Quality Permitting and Compliance	9:15AM	10:15AM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Networking Break	10:15AM	10:30AM	

SESSION 4

Software Solutions for Environmental Due Diligence	10:30AM	11:30AM	Environmental Permitting
Blasting in Wetlands and Waterbodies- Permitting Challenges and Lessons Learned	10:30AM	11:30AM	Construction
Implementing an LDAR Program in the Era of OOOOb and OOOOc	10:30AM	11:30AM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Networking Lunch	11:30AM	1:00PM	

SESSION 5

So I Have This Project – Part 3	1:00PM	2:00PM	Environmental Permitting
Challenging Crossings- Landfills, Mines, and Shallow Bedrock	1:00PM	2:00PM	Construction
Integrating Data Intelligence and AI into Environmental Compliance	1:00PM	2:00PM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Networking Break	2:00PM	2:15PM	

SESSION 6

FERC Filing Strategies- Traditional vs. Pre-Filing	2:15PM	3:15PM	Environmental Permitting
Creative Mitigation Strategies- Thinking Beyond the Checklist	2:15PM	3:15PM	Construction
Climate Risk Assessment Requirements- Implications for Oil & Gas	2:15PM	3:15PM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Refreshment Break	3:15PM	3:30PM	
Current Status of Hydrogen and RNG: Congress, Credits, and Creativity	3:30PM	4:30PM	General Session
Networking Reception	4:30PM	6:00PM	

Wednesday, Feb 4

Registration Open/ Badge Pick-Up	7:00AM	10:30AM	
FERC Update	8:00AM	9:00AM	General Session
Networking Break	9:00AM	9:30AM	

SESSION 7

Emergency Projects and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	9:30AM	10:30AM	Environmental Permitting
Pipelines in Coastal Habitats: Managing Impacts to Marine Mammals, Essential Fish Habitat, and Other Protected Species	9:30AM	10:30AM	Construction
Lessons Learned from EPA GHG Reporting Changes	9:30AM	10:30AM	Air Quality Permitting & Compliance
Refreshment	10:30AM	10:45AM	
Projects Gone Wild!	10:45AM	11:45AM	General Session
Conference Ends	11:45AM		



TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING & CONSTRUCTION Session Descriptions & Speakers

Monday, FEB 2

General Session

What's Happening in Washington?

Chris Smith, *INGAA*

An in-depth look at recent and pending revisions to key regulatory statutes affecting the natural gas industry. This session will explore the implications of these changes and provide insights into how companies can prepare for evolving compliance requirements.

SESSION 1

Protecting the Past, Powering the Future- Section 106 Compliance for Pipelines and Linear Energy Projects Amid Agency Cutbacks and Regulatory Uncertainty

Brandy Harris, *Burns & McDonnell* ; Abby Heller, *Burns & McDonnell*

Section 106 compliance remains a critical step for pipeline and linear energy projects, but today's regulatory environment is marked by shifting federal priorities and significant staffing shortages among both federal agencies and State Historic Preservation Offices. This session outlines best practices for keeping projects moving while meeting cultural resource obligations. Attendees will learn how proactive planning, relationship building, and early and ongoing coordination can reduce risk, prevent costly delays, and balance compliance with the realities of project delivery.

Permitting, Construction and Restoration of the Evangeline Pass Expansion Project

Matt Nowak, *KinderMorgan* ; Brenton Jenkins, *Stantec* ; Christina May, *RES*

This case study presents a comprehensive review of the planning and techniques utilized for wetland restoration on the Evangeline Pass Expansion Project in South Louisiana. This session highlights lessons learned, regulatory coordination, and environmental considerations in a complex coastal environment.

Navigating and Managing Air Permitting and Compliance in an Uneven and Evolving Landscape

Grant Morgan, *Georgette Reeves and Andy Woerner, ERM*

Balancing variability in regulatory approaches (state vs. federal) and ongoing challenges (and potential opportunities) linked to stakeholder expectations regarding methane.

Session will involve an interactive discussion of recent developments, lessons learned, and tips for navigating both permitting and ongoing air and GHG compliance, covering the following topics:

- Recent air quality regulatory developments affecting midstream and upstream assets (US EPA, State level, EU LNG regs, etc.)

SESSION 2

Fast-Tracking Energy Development: NEPA Alternative Arrangements

Gretchen Norman, *Stantec* ; Fred Wagner, *Jacobs*

A timely discussion on the U.S. Department of the Interior's proposed emergency permitting procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Learn how these alternative arrangements aim to accelerate domestic energy and critical mineral projects.

Pipeline Planning and Construction in the Arid West – A Wild Adventure and a Unique Challenge

Jocelyn Finch, *Arcadis*; Jon Podezsek, *Arcadis*

This session explores the unique complexities of developing multi-segment gas transmission projects in the Western U.S., including permitting on BLM-managed lands, managing burrowing owl habitats, and addressing regional water scarcity and environmental constraints.

Air Permitting Essentials: Tanks, NSPS Kc, and More

Stephanie McKay, *TRC*

A focused session on general air permitting guidelines, with an emphasis on tank permitting. Learn the differences between fixed roof, internal floating roof (IFR), and external floating roof (EFR) tanks, and get up to speed on updates to NSPS Kc

TUESDAY, FEB 3

Keynote Speaker

Permitting at the Speed of Demand: Is Washington Finally Listening?

Amos J. Hochstein, TWG Global

Project delays in the energy sector are increasingly caused by permitting bottlenecks, not material shortages. This session features Amos Hochstein who will break down the post-FERC backlog, the Mountain Valley Pipeline saga, and the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act. Attendees will hear what's changing in Washington—and whether it's enough to meet rising demand.

SESSION 3

Environmental Justice in a Shifting Landscape

Liz Valsamidis and Renee Hoyos, ERM

As anti-ESG sentiment grows, how can practitioners continue to address Environmental Justice (EJ) effectively? This session explores alternative tools, strategies, and frameworks for meaningful EJ analysis in today's regulatory climate.

Pipeline Waterway Crossings- Risk and Resource Management

Matthew Fracklenton, Arcadis ; Jeff Budzich, Arcadis

Learn about and explore best practices for assessing and managing natural forces threats associated with pipeline waterway crossings, with a focus on projects involving freshwater mussel habitats and other sensitive aquatic resources – including a case study from a pipeline operator!

Common Pitfalls in Air Quality Permitting and Compliance

Charlie Baker, POWER Engineers/ WSP

A practical overview of frequent mistakes in air permitting, including vague project details, assumptions about emergency equipment, misclassified portable sources, and compliance risks when idling stations. Learn how to avoid these issues and streamline your permitting process.

SESSION 4

Software Solutions for Environmental Due Diligence

Robin Laine, Transect ; Rob Hernandez, Pivvot/ Terracon

Environmental research for route design and site selection can be time consuming and cumbersome. Utilization of environmental due diligence software can streamline this process. Getting ahead of possible permitting hurdles not only saves time, it can save your project timelines from unnecessary risk and cost.

Blasting in Wetlands and Waterbodies- Permitting Challenges and Lessons Learned

Jeff Benefiel and Jason Lancaster, Stantec ; Blake Amos, KinderMorgan ; Gus McLachlan, Enbridge

Review recent projects where blasting in streams and wetlands was required and permitted under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Learn how teams navigated regulatory hurdles and what these examples reveal about permitting in sensitive environments.

Implementing an LDAR Program in the Era of OOOOb and OOOOc

Thomas Leleck and Mark Sangil, Arktos

With new methane rules on the horizon, this session will walk through the steps to establish and maintain a Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) program. Learn what's required, what's changing, and how to stay ahead of compliance expectations.

SESSION 5

So I Have This Project – Part 3

Eric Barbee, E2A ; David Dickson, Terracon ; Kristin Benbow, Energy Transfer

Scoping and budgeting for projects with incomplete information is a challenge for both consultants and operators. In this third and final installment of the popular “So I Have This Project” series, we will take all of the information shared in the previous two sessions and put it all together in a live, real-time scoping of a sample project.

Challenging Crossings- Landfills, Mines, and Shallow Bedrock

Jonathan Oliver, Stantec ; Kristen Jones, Atmos Energy ; Mark Franz, Michel's

This session presents recent project examples involving complex crossings through landfills, reclaimed mines, shallow bedrock, extensive wetlands and steep slopes.

Integrating Data Intelligence and AI into Environmental Compliance

B. Weinlein, Ensolum

Discover how emerging technologies—like AI and advanced data analytics—are transforming environmental compliance. This session will showcase tools and strategies for improving accuracy, efficiency, and decision-making in air and GHG compliance programs.

SESSION 6

FERC Filing Strategies- Traditional vs. Pre-Filing

[Alissa Ingham, ERM](#)

What's driving the choice between traditional and pre-filing processes at FERC? This session compares the two approaches, examining current trends, timelines, and the pros and cons of each path.

Creative Mitigation Strategies- Thinking Beyond the Checklist

[Dr. Dale W. Sparks, ESI](#)

Explore innovative and adaptive mitigation approaches that go beyond standard practices. This session will highlight creative solutions developed in collaboration with regulators and stakeholders to address complex environmental and permitting challenges.

Climate Risk Assessment Requirements- Implications for Oil & Gas

[Marca Hagenstad, Stantec](#)

As new regulations mandate corporate-level climate risk assessments, this session will explore their implications for oil and gas operations. Learn how to identify vulnerabilities across assets, integrate climate risk into asset management, and build operational resilience in a changing regulatory environment.

General Sessions

Current Status of Hydrogen and RNG: Congress, Credits, and Creativity

[Andrew McCarthy, Cavanaugh Solutions](#) ; [Brian Petermann, POWER Engineers/ WSP](#)

The adage “Nothing will Change – Change will Continue” is certainly true when it comes to tax credits, loans, and grants for renewable energy and decarbonization technologies such as hydrogen (H2) and renewable natural gas (RNG). Much of this was proposed during the Biden Administration (vis a vis the 2022 IRA and the Jobs Act) and some implemented up to the end of the administration. However, the so-called “Trump Effect” has already changed some of this through Executive Orders, with many more changes potentially resulting from legislation moving through Congress, particularly the Big Beautiful Bill. In the meantime, innovators have continued to pursue Green H2 and RNG as well as creative new H2 and RNG production processes of other “colors” that are trending despite the uncertain future of tax credits. This presentation will summarize the changes in the renewable/Green government tax credits and other funding mechanisms already taking place, will summarize those changes which would potentially take place with the passage of the Big Beautiful Bill, and will describe the trending, creative H2 and RNG production processes such as through biomass and waste streams to move forward in sustainability goals.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 4

General Sessions

FERC Update

[Gertrude Fernandez Johnson, FERC](#)

A timely update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's latest actions and the Division of Gas-Environment and Engineering's environmental review process. Attendees will gain insights into FERC's recent decisions, staff's environmental analyses, and latest trends

SESSION 7

Emergency Projects and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

[Coming Soon..](#)

Explore how individual USACE districts are currently interpreting and managing “emergency projects.” This session will provide real-world examples and discuss the variability in district-level approaches.

Pipelines in Coastal Habitats: Managing Impacts to Marine Mammals, Essential Fish Habitat, and Other Protected Species

[Justin Casey, ERM](#)

Construction of pipelines in coastal habitats can present unique challenges in mitigating risks to marine mammals, essential fish habitats, and other protected species. Consideration must be given to habitat fragmentation and loss in marsh areas, construction noise, and physical disturbances, which can adversely affect the breeding, feeding, and migration patterns of aquatic species, marsh birds, and other wildlife. Development of effective planning and management strategies in collaboration with regulatory agencies is crucial to identify, minimize, and mitigate these impacts. Using recent experience on multiple pipeline and LNG projects, this presentation will focus on best practices for early and effective management of wildlife and aquatic species in coastal areas, with a focus on swamp habitat.

Lessons Learned from EPA GHG Reporting Changes

Ankur Kadakia, *Iconic Air*

Explore recent changes to EPA’s greenhouse gas reporting requirements and how they’ve impacted compliance strategies. This session will share lessons learned and offer guidance for adapting internal systems and processes

General Sessions

Projects Gone Wild!