

2027 Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction

February 17-19, 2027 | Nashville, TN | Registration Opening Soon

Three days of practical, forward-looking sessions across four dedicated tracks—Environmental Permitting, Construction, Air Quality, and our all-new LNG track—plus general sessions on the policy and regulatory forces shaping our industry.



◆ KEYNOTE SPEAKER ◆

Amy Harder

National Energy Correspondent, Axios

Keynote Session (Working Title): “From AI to LNG: The Forces Reshaping Natural Gas Infrastructure”

GENERAL SESSIONS **The Big Picture**

Policy, regulatory, and industry-wide forces—open to all attendees

Unleashing American Energy: Future-Proofing Projects in a Shifting Political Landscape

The federal “Unleashing American Energy” push has accelerated programs designed to speed project delivery—but what happens if the landscape shifts again? This session examines how federal programs are influencing project timelines today and how operators can future proof their projects against a potential change in administration in 2028, including the risk of executive orders being overturned. Attendees will leave with strategies to build durability and flexibility into long-lead permitting and construction plans.

What Actually Speeds Projects Up? Timelines, FAST-41, and Agency Realities

Everyone wants faster projects—but which levers actually move the needle? This candid session offers real-world observations on when federal programs help (and when they don’t), a side-by-side look at FAST-41 vs. non-FAST-41 projects, and the district-by-district variability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Panelists also tackle formal consultation, educating agencies, and how to manage timeline expectations internally.

FERC Update: Policy Direction and the Repeal of Order 871

A timely briefing on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s latest actions and priorities, including the repeal of Order 871 and what it signals for project certificates. Attendees gain insight into how FERC’s evolving posture may shape approvals, compliance strategy, and long-term planning.

Reading the Tea Leaves: FERC Variance Trends in BAAs, PNs, and Section 7 Applications

An in-depth look at emerging FERC variance trends across Blanket Authority Activities/Automatic Mods (BAA/AMs), Prior Notices (PN), and Section 7 applications—plus the growing role of third-party compliance monitoring. This session helps practitioners anticipate how FERC is treating variances and what that means for filing strategy.

TRACK 1 Environmental Permitting

Navigating a fast-moving federal and state permitting landscape

The New Blanket Certificate: FERC's Proposed Rulemaking for Midstream & LNG

FERC's proposed changes to Blanket Certificate authorization could reshape how midstream and LNG operators approach routine project work. This session breaks down the proposed rulemaking and its key implications and—depending on timing—any final rule, so attendees understand what's changing and how to adapt.

After Seven Counties: Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Risk in a Higher-Litigation Era

The Supreme Court's Seven Counties ruling has reshaped the risk landscape for Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act compliance. This session explores the ruling's implications, the increased litigation exposure operators now face, and practical strategies to manage and defend against that risk.

Permitting and Constructing FERC Projects on BLM Land

Federal land adds a layer of complexity to FERC-jurisdictional projects. This session walks through the interplay between FERC authorization and BLM land-management requirements, offering practical guidance for coordinating permitting and construction across overlapping federal authorities.

T&E Species and the Art of "Minimum Necessary" Mitigation

A regulatory update on newly listed and proposed species, active lawsuits and legal challenges, and changes to Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species regulations—paired with a candid discussion of ESA compliance and how to define "minimum necessary" mitigation. Panelists share lessons learned on managing agency expectations while keeping mitigation practical and defensible.

AI in Routing & Siting: The Art of the Possible for Pipeline Projects

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming routing and siting—accelerating constraint analysis, enabling dynamic scenario testing, and uncovering non-obvious corridors that balance environmental, engineering, and socio-economic factors. This session explores AI-assisted land suitability modeling, automated alternatives generation, and near-real-time data integration, along with the real limitations around data quality, model transparency, and the need for domain-expert oversight.

Powering the AI Economy: Data Centers, Behind-the-Meter Generation, and Pipeline Permitting

The explosive growth of data centers and behind-the-meter generation is reshaping demand—and the environmental permitting picture for natural gas pipelines. Modeled on a roundtable format, this session explores how the AI economy is driving new permitting considerations and what it means for pipeline development.

USACE Civil Works: Section 408 Lessons Learned

Section 408 reviews can create sequencing headaches when they collide with permitting, engineering, and project schedules. This session focuses on common sequencing challenges and strategies to improve alignment across teams, potentially featuring a USACE 408 coordinator to share the agency perspective.

TRACK 2 Construction

From startup readiness to closeout—compliance in the field

The First 30 Days: Why Environmental Compliance Breaks Down at Construction Startup

The riskiest window in pipeline construction is often the first 30 days, when permit conditions, contractor execution, inspection authority, access controls, SWPPP requirements, variance procedures, and agency communication are all tested at once. This session identifies the most common startup failure points and

lays out a practical environmental readiness process—pre-mobilization compliance matrices, field-level constraint verification, variance/change management, and documentation practices—that reduces early non-compliance, rework, and schedule impacts.

So It Is Written, So It Shall Be Done: Turning Commitments Into Executed Compliance

A real-world success story of one natural gas transmission company's effort to change its culture around environmental commitments—driving accountability and execution from the permitting phase through the field. Learn how collaborative workshops and an intuitive low-code tracking tool earned remarkable staff buy-in, turning compliance from a reactive scramble into a proactive discipline.

The Violation Wasn't in the Wetland—It Was in the Conversation

Many environmental non-compliances trace back not to the field, but to a communication breakdown. This provocative session examines how good people make bad compliance decisions, why the most dangerous violation is often the one that never gets reported, and how the cost of silence shows up on real projects—with practical strategies to fix the conversation before it becomes a violation.

Harnessing Environmental DNA (eDNA): The Future of Biological Monitoring and Compliance

Environmental DNA is revolutionizing species detection and biological monitoring. This session shows how eDNA can deliver highly sensitive, efficient, and scalable surveys that outperform traditional methods like trapping, electrofishing, and visual encounter surveys—offering a modern, defensible, and cost-effective way to meet obligations around endangered and invasive species, habitat protection, and ROW stewardship while reducing field effort and operational risk.

Reading the Current: State Regulators Redefining Bank Stabilization and Exposure Repairs

State regulators are changing the rules for bank stabilization and pipeline exposure repairs. This session explores how those expectations are shifting and what operators need to know to keep repair and stabilization work compliant in a changing regulatory landscape.

Programmatic Permitting for O&M: A 30-Year Success Story

A look at the success of a 30-year programmatic permit covering pipeline O&M activities affecting federal and California state jurisdictional waters and listed-species habitat. Learn how programmatic permitting reduces application and agency processing time, provides certainty on avoidance and minimization measures, and delivers a cost-effective, comprehensive mitigation strategy across all O&M projects.

Challenging Crossings, Part 2: Superfund Sites, Direct Pipe, and Beyond

A follow-up to the popular 2026 session, this installment tackles a new set of complex crossings—including superfund sites, direct-pipe installations, and other difficult scenarios—with fresh project examples and hard-won lessons.

TRACK 3 Air Quality

Methane rules, GHG reporting, and station compliance

To Report or Not to Report: GHG Reporting in Flux

With the Voluntary GHG Reporting program pending EPA reconsideration (expected around October) and Subpart W technical amendments anticipated by December 2026, GHG reporting is a moving target. Featuring perspectives such as Iconic Air, this session helps attendees weigh whether and how to report—and how to prepare for the changes ahead.

OOOOB/c and the New Methane Rules: An Agency and Industry Update

A regulatory update on OOOOb/c and related methane rules, with perspectives from agency representatives and industry (including Arktos). This session summarizes new and changed regulations affecting meter and compressor stations, addresses flare compliance under OOOOb/c, and shares early lessons learned and pitfalls.

Meter and Compressor Station Regulations: What's New and What We've Learned

A focused update on new and changed regulations applying to meter and compressor stations. This session summarizes the regulatory changes and dives into the real lessons learned so far—including the pitfalls operators have encountered in early implementation.

TRACK 4 LNG ♦ NEW FOR 2027

Our newest track—permitting, finance, and marine construction for LNG

LNG Lessons Learned and Pitfalls: Permitting and Legal Perspectives

As LNG development accelerates, so do the permitting and legal complexities. This session brings together permitting and legal perspectives on the lessons learned—and the pitfalls to avoid—across recent LNG projects.

FERC to Financial Close: The Environmental Permitting Gap in International Project Finance

A U.S. permit doesn't always equal "bankability." This session examines the environmental permitting gaps that emerge when U.S.-based LNG and natural gas projects seek international project finance—where lenders operating under the Equator Principles and IFC Performance Standards require environmental and social due diligence, gap analyses, and documentation that go beyond typical U.S. regulatory deliverables.

LNG Dredging, Offshore Construction, and Pile Driving

LNG facilities bring marine construction challenges rarely seen on upland pipeline projects. This session explores the environmental considerations and permitting realities of LNG dredging, offshore construction, and pile driving.

The LNG Social License to Operate: Stakeholder Engagement Beyond Construction

An LNG facility may operate for decades, making stakeholder relationships a long-term business imperative rather than a short-term project requirement. This session explores how industry leaders are approaching community engagement, public outreach, workforce development, local investment, and ongoing stakeholder communication throughout the life of an LNG project. Through real-world examples and lessons learned, attendees will gain practical strategies for building trust, managing expectations, and fostering lasting community partnerships that support both project success and operational longevity.



Presented by SGA Natural Gas Association · Session topics reflect sessions under review and are subject to change.