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SITING AND PERMITTING FOR TRANSMISSION PROJECTS

May 18-19, 2020
The Westin Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN



"Being involved in transmission siting and planning for projects in the engineering side, this conference helped me better understand processes and community impact that we tend to take for granted. I highly recommend this seminar to anyone involved in design or planning of transmission."

Senior Engineering Technician,
Liberty Utilities

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

**Diving into the Details:
Best Practices and Lessons Learned
that Make for a Better Project**

TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020



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EUCI is authorized by IACET to offer 0.9 CEUs for the conference and 0.4 CEUs for the workshop.

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OVERVIEW

Siting new transmission lines is a daunting task with numerous regulatory hurdles in the process. These complications are compounded when projects have an impact on areas that have significant natural, rural, or urban resources. Successful project collaboration among agencies, community groups, and transmission developers is key to overcoming challenges, preserving sensitive areas, and getting projects built.

This conference will focus on siting and permitting lessons learned, data collection for siting, working as teams for successful projects and successful community engagement in environments with sensitive botanical, cultural, wildlife and community resources while also diving into the integration of these projects from rural into urban environments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe the partnership between Eversource's siting and permitting functional groups to achieve successful projects
- Discuss SDG&E's completed high-level planning phase reviews to identify key issues
- Listen to solutions utilizing alternatives for ROW access for construction of lines
- Review Next Era Energy Resources' methods and challenges in siting solar projects
- Listen to lessons learned on a flexible strategy during siting and routing engagement
- Engage in a panel discussion on the challenges facing transmission siting and methods for meeting those
- Describe a successful strategy to collect, track, measure and report data that will inform a comprehensive strategy for siting communication
- Listen to how Xcel Energy is using their drone program for effective data collection for routing/siting of projects
- Discuss Ameren's lessons learned on their MVP Mark Twain Transmission Project

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Transmission and renewable owners, operators, and planners
- Environmental managers and directors
- Transmission line and renewable engineers
- Renewable energy project managers and developers
- Regulatory affairs professionals
- Transmission project managers
- Transmission and renewable construction professionals
- Biologists, botanists, and environmental scientists



"I always leave EUCI conferences armed with the latest best management practices and industry standards which make my job so much easier!"

Project Administrator, Tampa Electric

AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

- 8:00 – 8:30 am** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 – 8:45 am** **Introductions**
- 8:45 – 9:40 am** **An In-Depth Review of a Successful Siting and Environmental Partnership**
 As the demand for energy continues to rise, maintaining a safe and reliable electric transmission system has never been more critical. Siting and permitting challenges are compounded when projects are located within a mix of adjacent land uses, including natural and highly developed areas. This presentation will focus on the partnership between Eversource’s siting and permitting functional groups in finding solutions to these unique challenges resulting in successful project construction while keeping environmental protection a priority. This presentation will focus on strategies and techniques to maximize avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of project impacts to help facilitate a positive siting and permitting process.
Matthew A. Waldrip, Senior Environmental Specialist, Eversource Energy
Maija Benjamins, Lead – Transmission Siting, Eversource Energy
- 9:40 – 10:30 am** **Environmental Constraints Analysis During the Planning Phase**
 SDG&E completes high-level planning phase reviews to identify key issues for our internal clients including transmission and substation engineering and design groups. Environmental Services conducts desktop analysis with GIS databases and aerial imagery of the proposed project and completes checklists to determine project complexity; this review informs the clients about the various constraints, permitting needs, ballpark costs, and anticipated approval schedule.
Rich Quasarano, Senior Environmental Specialist / Environmental Planner, SDG&E
- 10:30 – 11:00 am** **Networking Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm** **Challenges of Siting Solar Projects**
 Siting a solar project is challenging work. The right combination of solar conditions, power transmission lines and land all play important roles. This presentation will discuss how developers work with landowners to walk them through the process, meet with local officials on project progress, conduct environmental assessments, complete historical and archaeological reviews, arrange connection to the power grid, secure customers for the site’s generated electricity, attend public meetings to gain approval for construction, permitting and land use zoning; and procure the necessary equipment for construction.
Coke Cookley, Manager - Environmental Services, Next Era Energy Resources
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm** **Group Luncheon**
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **Finding the Right Balance Between Best Practices and Tailored Engagement**
 Over the last 10 years, the power industry has evolved to a standard of integrated public engagement strategy in the siting and routing process. During this transformation, most utilities have developed best practices and structure around siting and routing engagement. A standard practice is important; however, the ability to flex and adapt to the unique project and community is an art. During this presentation we’ll review lessons learned and talk about how using a flexible strategy during siting and routing engagement can build relationships and support a smooth permitting process.
Emily Hyland, Central Region Strategic Communications Manager, HDR

AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 (CONTINUED)

2:00 – 2:45 pm

Collect, Track, Measure, Report, Adjust

A good communication strategy is a two-way street, providing landowners and customers engagement opportunities to provide input, feedback and ask questions. From project comment cards and landowners lists to customer email engagement and ad clicks, your project is flush with data filtering in from different sources in different metrics. A successful strategy to collect, track, measure and report will inform a comprehensive strategy that incorporates online and offline behaviors and actions, equipping you with data to tailor messaging, shift tactics or avoid potentially volatile situations.

Abby Foster, Public Affairs Director, Bravo Group

2:45 – 3:15 pm

Networking Break

3:15 – 4:00 pm

Difficulties with ROW Access and Alternative Solutions

ROW access has been fraught with many obstacles such as landowner perceptions, agricultural access, wetlands and permitting. Solutions utilizing alternatives, such as composite matting and turnkey access, has proven to mitigate many of the obstacles. Case Studies to be discussed.

Joe Goodhew, Director T&D, Newpark Mats and Integrated Services

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Challenges Facing the Siting/Permitting of Projects - Panel Discussion

This question and answer panel discussion will focus on the range of challenges that transmission owners are facing in siting lines and how they are meeting those challenges successfully.

Moderator: Joe Goodhew, Director T&D, Newpark Mats and Integrated Services

Matthew A. Waldrip, Senior Environmental Specialist, Eversource Energy

Maija Benjamins, Lead – Transmission Siting, Eversource Energy

Leah Dettmers, Stakeholder Relations Specialist, Ameren Transmission

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

8:00 – 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 am

Preparation Clears the Pathway for Success: A Snapshot on Ameren's MVP Mark Twain Transmission Project

This presentation will review the Mark Twain Transmission Project, a 96-mile, 345,000-volt transmission line and substation in northeast Missouri. The line travels west from Palmyra to Kirksville, Missouri then north to the Iowa border. The project is now providing local and regional benefit, including improved energy grid reliability, increased transmission capacity and greater access to lower cost energy, including renewable sources, such as wind. A discussion on the process taken will be reviewed during this presentation.

Leah Dettmers, Stakeholder Relations Specialist, Ameren Transmission

Stephanie S. Muentnich, PE, Vice President - Illinois Real Estate Operations & Regional Marketing, Volkert, Inc.

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 (CONTINUED)

9:30 – 10:30 am

Evolution of Siting and Permitting

As the energy markets grow with shifting generation and aging infrastructure, the nature of siting and permitting the infrastructure need to serve these needs has changed. This session will involve an interactive dialogue about the changes taking place in siting and permitting and discuss new paradigms, changing regulatory burdens, and shifting approaches to public involvement.

Dan Belin AICP, Principal, Energy Business Line, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

10:30 – 11:00 am

Networking Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Drones and Data Collection for Siting

This presentation will delve into the increased use of drones by utilities for data collection for use in routing/siting of projects and how they can best be used for the benefit of all.

Eileen Lockhart, UAS Program Manager, Xcel Energy (Invited)

12:00 pm

Conference Adjourns



“Well planned conference with highly qualified presenters. Very educational!”

Sr. Specialist – Land Use Planning, Bureau of Land Management



“Great information! I’m glad I attended.”

Lead Scientist, Pepco Holdings, Inc.



“Great group of presenters. Very knowledgeable and informative.”

Siting Analyst, Eversource Energy

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Diving into the Details: *Best Practices and Lessons Learned that Make for a Better Project*

TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020

12:30 – 1:00 pm **Workshop Registration**

1:00 – 5:00 pm **Workshop Timing**

OVERVIEW

This interactive workshop will be facilitated by a fully integrated routing and siting team with transmission and renewable energy project experience across the country. Participants will have the opportunity to dive into best practices and lessons learned covering siting challenges and opportunities that come from siting typical to unique conditions including real estate aspects covered, environmental permitting, data collection and usage for community and agency outreach.

Each topic area will include a brief presentation, hands on exercise and small and large group discussions. In addition, participants are encouraged to bring current or upcoming project examples, if available, to work through with the workshop team through small group discussions. Based on input at the beginning of the workshop, the content and discussions will be tailored to the participant's needs and interests.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discover the challenges and solutions of siting in diverse situations
- Engage in a discussion on the methods and practices for acquiring real estate for siting projects
- List the steps to take for environmental permitting through construction
- Detail the use of data for agency and public outreach for effective project communications

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- Typical and unique siting challenges
- Real Estate: methods and practices for acquiring real estate
- Environmental – permitting through Construction
- Agency and public outreach and data

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

Michelle Bissonnette, Sr. Vice President, HDR

Brian Hunker, Environmental Project Manager, HDR

Aimie Mims, Right-of-way Lead, HDR

Emily Hyland, Central Region Strategic Communications Manager, HDR

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Case studies, PowerPoint presentations, and group discussion will be used in this event.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

Participants must sign in/out each day and be in attendance for the entirety of the conference to be eligible for continuing education credit.

REGISTER 3, SEND THE 4TH FREE

Any organization wishing to send multiple attendees to this conference may send 1 FREE for every 3 delegates registered. Please note that all registrations must be made at the same time to qualify.

IACET CREDITS



EUCI has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). In obtaining this accreditation, EUCI has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of good practice. As a result of their Authorized Provider status, EUCI is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard.

EUCI is authorized by IACET to offer 0.9 CEUs for the conference and 0.4 CEUs for the workshop.

EVENT LOCATION

A room block has been reserved at the **The Westin Minneapolis**, 88 South 6th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402-1114, for the nights of May 17-18, 2020. Room rates are US \$189, plus applicable tax. Call **1-612-333-4006** for reservations and mention the EUCI event to get the group rate. The cutoff date to receive the group rate is April 27, 2020 but as there are a limited number of rooms available at this rate, the room block may close sooner. ***Please make your reservations early.***

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to drive new business through this event's powerful audience? Becoming a sponsor or exhibitor is an excellent opportunity to raise your profile before a manageably sized group of executives who make the key purchasing decisions for their businesses. There is a wide range of sponsorship opportunities available that can be customized to fit our budget and marketing objectives, including: Platinum, Gold, or VIP sponsor, Reception host, Tabletop exhibit, Lanyard sponsor, Luncheon host and Breakfast host.

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SPECIAL BUNDLE PRICE: SITING AND PERMITTING FOR TRANSMISSION PROJECTS CONFERENCE AND POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

MAY 18-19, 2020: US \$1795
EARLY BIRD on or before MAY 1, 2020: US \$1595

SITING AND PERMITTING FOR TRANSMISSION PROJECTS ONLY

MAY 18-19, 2020: US \$1395
EARLY BIRD on or before MAY 1, 2020: US \$1195

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ONLY: DIVING INTO THE DETAILS: BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED THAT MAKE FOR A BETTER PROJECT: TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020: US \$595

EARLY BIRD on or before MAY 1, 2020: US \$495

I'M SORRY I CANNOT ATTEND, BUT PLEASE EMAIL ME A LINK TO THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS FOR US \$395

ENERGIZE WEEKLY

Energize Weekly is EUCI's free weekly newsletter, delivered to your inbox every Wednesday. We provide you with the latest industry news as well as in-depth analysis from our own team of experts. Subscribers also receive free downloadable presentations from our past events



Sign me up for Energize Weekly

How did you hear about this event? (direct e-mail, colleague, speaker(s), etc.)

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OR Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ to cover _____ registrations.

Substitutions & Cancellations

Your registration may be transferred to a member of your organization up to 24 hours in advance of the event. Cancellations must be received on or before April 24, 2020 in order to be refunded and will be subject to a US \$195.00 processing fee per registrant. No refunds will be made after this date. Cancellations received after this date will create a credit of the tuition (less processing fee) good toward any other EUCI event. This credit will be good for six months from the cancellation date. In the event of non-attendance, all registration fees will be forfeited. In case of course cancellation, EUCI's liability is limited to refund of the event registration fee only. For more information regarding administrative policies, such as complaints and refunds, please contact our offices. EUCI reserves the right to alter this program without prior notice.