

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE:

By Mark Bowen

Flexible, Efficient Planning and Design-Build Services

Kleinschmidt is providing an array of mitigation services to assist the developer, Williams Cos. Inc., to obtain the permits required to construct the Constitution Pipeline, a 124-mile natural gas pipeline extending from Susquehanna County, PA, to Schoharie County, NY. Mitigation is required to address unavoidable disturbance of state and federally regulated wetlands and nearly 80 stream crossings in order to obtain a Section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Kleinschmidt is providing comprehensive support encompassing scientific, engineering, and regulatory services:

- assistance with assessment of wetland functions and services
- facilitation of agency consultation
- evaluation of the amount of mitigation required
- public outreach and local government engagement
- identification of properties for mitigation acquisition
- feasibility assessment of mitigation alternatives (e.g., restoration, mitigation banking, in-lieu fee)
- development of a geographic information system



Proposed route for the Constitution Pipeline

- property due diligence reviews
- stream and wetland assessment
- assistance with purchasing easements and property for mitigation
- forest connectivity analysis
- conceptual and final mitigation designs
- permitting assistance (federal, state and local)
- comprehensive at-risk construction management
- We assembled and manage a highly qualified team of consultants to provide topographic and boundary surveys, manage real estate transactions, record easements and provide the full array of studies and services associated with mitigation planning (e.g., wetland science, archaeological surveys, environmental site assessments, geotechnical
- post-construction monitoring
- warrantee and maintenance of mitigation sites
- on-site restoration along the pipeline corridor

engineering, invasive species assessment and control).

Public outreach to encourage constructive relations with stakeholders is a critical component of Kleinschmidt's support for this project. Our Public Outreach Team engaged stakeholders early and continues to work creatively to maintain positive relations with local governments, non-government organizations, conservation districts, landowners, and the



COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE:

By Mark Bowen

regulatory community. We developed effective methods for addressing issues that promote acceptance and help to keep the project on schedule. We translate the scientific foundations for the planning process to the public clearly to facilitate effective communication.

Kleinschmidt has mobilized multiple specialist teams including Property Identification, Wetland

Mitigation Design, Stream Easement Acquisition, Mitigation Planning, Mitigation Design, Permitting, and Public Outreach simultaneously to maintain an aggressive project schedule. Integrated management of these teams ensures flexible, efficient response to the ever-changing circumstances affecting mitigation planning. We prepared conceptual designs for all potential mitigation alternatives

to ensure the prompt availability of “fall-back” options when first-choice projects are eliminated from further consideration for any reason.

Kleinschmidt’s integrated “All Hands On Deck” approach enables us to provide all the services necessary to deliver the required mitigation results when they are needed. Effective coordination of the scientific,

engineering, regulatory, and public outreach expertise enables Kleinschmidt to respond innovatively and efficiently to help simplify a complex project.

**For more information,
contact Mark.Bowen@KleinschmidtGroup.com**