

## Energy Infrastructure Permitting

“At Dawson & Associates, our Federal energy advocacy strategy is based on the belief that a strong domestic energy program has profound economic and national security benefits.”

– Robert Dawson  
President & Founder

### CLIENT

A major energy company required Federal permits for a planned 400-mile natural gas pipeline crossing extensive wetlands and other “Waters of the United States” falling within the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The pipeline also passed through endangered species habitats requiring mitigation approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The client was committed to minimizing construction and operational impacts to the environment, land owners, and local communities.

### BACKGROUND

Natural gas pipeline permitting is a complex regulatory procedure that typically involves three or more years of negotiation with multiple Federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dawson & Associates has a successful track record helping energy companies obtain timely and legally sustainable Federal permits in support of their project needs.

### RESPONSE

Dawson recommended the creation of a dedicated permit project management team. Established early in the permit application process, the team worked seamlessly with the client and Federal agencies to build trust, resolve issues, and avoid delays.

Drawing on expertise from Dawson Senior Advisors with extensive first-hand experience in key Federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project team quickly developed and implemented a comprehensive permitting strategy.

The client’s projected commercial in-service date required an aggressive schedule. Therefore, the project team realized timeline efficiencies by ensuring all permit documents were complete, accurate, and properly formatted for expeditious agency review. Dawson reviewed and consulted on all agency submittals to ensure clarity of purpose and transparent communications. The approach of “doing it right the first time” also substantially aided later judicial sustainment of the permit approvals.

Following a thorough regulatory review, Federal agencies provided the necessary permits and approvals four months ahead of the client’s timetable. The energy company completed the pipeline and improved upon its scheduled in-service date resulting in several million dollars of revenue that may not otherwise have been possible.