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# NEPA and Environmental Permitting for Rail

Statement of Qualifications



The background image is a blurred photograph of a high-speed train in motion, crossing a bridge. In the foreground, several railway tracks with gravel ballast are visible, receding into the distance. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-brown and orange tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise setting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

AECOM's global  
environmental Impact  
Assessment and  
Permitting practice  
uses state of the art  
tools to combine  
new and existing  
data, to ensure  
successful permitting  
and certification of  
proposed projects.

Accurate impact analyses and successful project permitting and certification for rail projects requires an understanding of the intricacies of environmental laws and regulations, the complexities of the resources affected by development, and solid working relationships with regulators. Drawing on our full range of technical specialists — resource scientists, environmental engineers, planners, and regulatory specialists — AECOM's global environmental practice helps clients streamline the approval process and comply with environmental laws and regulations.

AECOM offers:

- Strategic project planning services
- Experienced, multi-disciplinary staff and time-tested industry solutions
- Environmental impact studies, assessments, and regulatory permitting services
- Natural, cultural, and social resources planning, management and restoration







## Technical Services to Support the Impact Analysis and Permitting Process

AECOM's scientists, engineers, planners, and GIS/CAD/database specialists provide the full range of field data collection, analyses, and reporting services required for project compliance.

- Natural resource planning and restoration
  - Wetlands - delineations, functional value assessments, impact analysis, mitigation design and monitoring
  - Floodplains - regulatory mapping
  - Wildlife habitat - evaluations and inventories
  - Ecosystem restoration - phytoremediation, constructed wetlands and invasive species management
  - Water supply development and protection
  - Marine services - sediment sampling/ characterization, benthic and fisheries resource assessments, physical oceanography/hydrography
  - Dredging/dredged material management plans
- Cultural resources identification and preservation
- Social and socioeconomic resources identification and analysis
- Air quality - carbon disclosure reporting, screening level modeling, siting studies, mesoscale and microscale analyses, meteorological data evaluations, indoor air quality
- Hydrologic modeling - surface or groundwater
  - Stormwater management design, and pre- and post-development calculations, design of treatment and conveyance systems
- Contaminated sites - environmental due diligence, property transfer assessments, findings of suitability to transfer, regulatory compliance, remedial investigations and cleanup, ecological and health risk assessment
- GIS - applications and modeling data visualization
- Expert witness testimony and peer reviews

# Comprehensive Project Lifetime Services

## Planning

- **Site selection/critical flaw studies/ environmental due diligence.** Identify the most suitable site, uncover fatal flaws, minimize the impacts of a project and reduce environmental review requirements
- **Resource delineations.** Assist in the siting of a facility to avoid impacts and regulatory review (e.g., wetlands, protected species habitats, historic and cultural resources, migratory bird habitats)
- **GIS and database applications.** Expedite baseline data collection and streamline the assessment of impacts and mitigation for siting and design alternatives
- **Regulatory strategies.** Establish creative mitigation solutions and streamline the environmental review process by leveraging long-standing relationships

## Design

- **Agency consultation and negotiations.** Identify regulatory concerns and interpretive nuances up front, so the project can be designed in conformance with the applicable regulations
- **Critical path scheduling and management of the review process.** Minimize or avoid costly design changes dictated by the regulatory agencies and the public
- **Stakeholder/public involvement.** Deliver transparent communications to build public and other stake-holder trust, avoiding deal-breakers and costly delays that can result from public distrust and stakeholder misconceptions

## Construction and Post-Construction

- **Construction oversight.** Prevent delays caused by schedule overruns or non-compliance with permit conditions
- **Pre- and post-construction resource characterizations and surveys.** Assess recovery of affected resources and success of constructed environments
- **Compliance monitoring and reporting.** Demonstrate to regulators satisfaction of permit conditions
- **Operations surveys, monitoring, and reporting.** Ensure compliance with long-term requirements and uninterrupted operations



## NEPA Impact Assessment Services

AECOM's global environmental practice has assisted thousands of corporations, developers and agencies with expert environmental impact assessment and permitting services. Our 45 years of experience with local, state and federal laws, rules, regulations and regulators is a direct benefit to our clients in working through the processes successfully, no matter how complex the project elements or site constraints may be.

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and Environmental Assessments (EAs)
- State-required environmental assessments and environmental impact statements/ reports
- Facility siting approvals (US Coast Guard Deepwater Port, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and other federal and state facility siting boards/ commissions)

- NEPA contracts include applicant prepared documents (typically EAs), third-party EA and EIS development, and direct contract arrangements

### Permitting

- **Wetlands.** Clean Water Act, Section 401 and 404, state and local wetlands and waters protection laws
- **Stormwater.** NPDES stormwater management plans, SPCC plans and SWPP Plans
- **Water supply.** State and local withdrawal and use permits
- **Wastewater.** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and state industrial, wastewater discharge and thermal discharge permits
- **Waterways.** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, state navigation- based permits

- **Coastal and marine.** Coastal Zone Management consistency, Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act for dredged material disposal, state coastal zone, tidelands/riparian use laws, local coastal wetlands/waterfront approvals
- **Endangered and other protected species.** Endangered Species Act consultation and compliance, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act compliance and planning, similar state and local regulatory compliance
- **Air quality.** Prevention of Significant Deterioration, Clean Air Act Consistency Certification, state permits
- **Cultural resources.** Natural Historic Preservation Act and state laws related to historic/archeological resources, including consultation with Tribes and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)







