

# PIPELINE Services



**BIRKITT**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES, INC.



Birkitt Environmental Services, Inc. (Birkitt) has extensive experience in all phases of pipeline projects, including siting studies, permitting/certification, mitigation design, construction monitoring and restoration compliance. Specialization in innovative and strategic approaches to expedite permitting and provide cost-effective practical solutions to environmental issues throughout the project makes Birkitt unique in this field. Birkitt has managed or directed numerous multi-disciplinary fast-track pipeline projects and understands the complexities and balance in environmental permitting, practicable and cost-effective construction methodologies, and environmental monitoring and compliance, both domestically and internationally. Linear projects include natural gas transmission lines, petroleum products pipelines, and water and wastewater lines and associated facilities. Birkitt staff have in-depth knowledge of all regulatory processes, experience in all phases of pipeline permitting and construction, documented success in the certification and permitting of almost 1,500 miles of natural gas pipelines in Florida, and strong relationships with key regulatory management and staff at all levels.

## **Key Pipeline Services Include:**

### **Regulatory and Permitting**

- Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) Certification
- NEPA documentation, Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 and Section 10 Permits
- State Environmental Resource Permits (ERP)
- State Owned Uplands and Submerged Lands Easements
- Water Use Permitting
- Local Permitting and Licenses
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Coordination
- FERC/BOEMRE/US Coast Guard Approvals & Certification

### **Ecological Studies**

- Benthic Habitat Mapping, Impact Assessment, and Mitigation
- Essential Fish Habitat Consultation/Coordination
- Threatened and Endangered Species Assessments (ESA)
- Wetland Delineation, Functional Assessment, and Mitigation
- Section 7 Consultation/Coordination

### **Public Involvement**

- Coordination of Environmental/Special Interest Groups
- Public Scoping Meetings & Open Houses
- Monitoring & Management
  - Construction Implementation Plans & Training
  - Compliance Monitoring

*people and nature*

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### ***Florida Gas Transmission Company, Phase III Expansion***

Responsible for siting studies; FERC certification; federal, state, regional and local permitting; water quality variances; wetlands and wildlife mitigation; construction and post-construction environmental monitoring, and contractor training for the 815-mile Phase III Pipeline Expansion through four southern states. (Constructed)

### ***Foley Cellulose Effluent Pipeline***

Providing permitting assistance for the proposed construction of a 15.3-mile treated effluent pipeline from the Foley Cellulose, Kraft pulp mill in Perry, Florida to the lower Fenholloway River, discharging upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. Construction of the pipeline will improve the Fenholloway River by moving the point of effluent discharge from the pulp mill to the mouth of the river. Field studies were conducted to determine approximate locations of wetlands and jurisdiction, and identify any protected species and/or protected species habitat. Wildlife species/habitats surveyed included: gopher tortoise and Eastern indigo snake. Birkitt quantified approximate impacts associated with the pipeline construction and evaluated potential wetland mitigation requirements.

### ***Calypso Natural Gas Pipeline***

Environmental management, permitting and certification for the 95-mile long pipeline proposed from a LNG facility in the Bahamas crossing the Atlantic Ocean, making landfall at Port Everglades in Southeast Florida. FERC certification and state and local permits were obtained. Development of training program for construction management, manatee and sea turtle protection plans, and turbidity plan was also required.

### ***Gulfstream Natural Gas System***

Environmental permitting (state, federal, and local) of the 753-mile natural gas pipeline for Gulfstream Natural Gas System, utilizing the "team permitting" approach in Florida. The pipeline crosses the Gulf of Mexico, entering Florida at Port Manatee in Tampa Bay and extending across ten counties in central and south Florida. Freshwater wetlands mitigation and estuarine habitat mitigation was negotiated. (Constructed)

### ***Phase IV, V, and VI Expansion Florida Gas Transmission Company***

Vegetative monitoring of the pipeline right-of-way to ensure success of both herbaceous and forested wetland revegetation. Technical services include onsite field surveys for approximately 500 wetlands, preparation of the monitoring reports, and maintenance for control of exotics and nuisance species. This project covers over 270 miles of pipeline route located within eight counties in Florida and in Mississippi. Monitoring and maintenance oversight was provided from 2000 to 2008.

### ***SONAT***

Permitted 87 mile natural gas pipeline across north Florida; obtained US Forest Service approval for crossing Ocala National Forest. Evaluated impact to red-cockaded woodpeckers in the national forest.

### ***Port Dolphin Deep Water Port and Natural Gas Pipeline***

Birkitt assisted in the preparation of state, federal and local permit applications, FERC Resource Reports, and USCG Deep Water Port License, as well as assisted with all environmental aspects of a 28-mile natural gas pipeline project for Port Dolphin. Responsibilities also included conducting wetland and threatened and endangered species surveys for the onshore portion of the pipeline. The pipeline is proposed to begin at an offshore deep water port in the Gulf of Mexico, making landfall at Port Manatee in Southwest Florida, and connecting landward to the TECO and Gulfstream Natural Gas interchange. The project involved potential impacts to hardbottom habitat and wetlands. The project required extensive coordination with regulatory agencies, resource and planning entities and local governments.