


## Environmental Permitting



Prior to implementation, a project must be planned and designed, and it also must be permitted. Permitting activities are intended to ensure that public health and the environment are protected. In many jurisdictions the permitting process can be arduous, time consuming, and costly for any project, let alone one with environmental challenges. Approvals may be needed from many different government agencies, and perhaps other stakeholders, even the general public. Failure to understand the permitting requirements and the perspectives of the government agencies and other stakeholders is one of the main reasons for project failure.

With respect to environmental permits, some are obtained from Federal agencies. However, most States and even Local agencies have their own permitting requirements. Environmental permits often relate to air quality, waste handling, runoff control, or environmental impact. For projects that come in contact with navigable waters, wetlands or other sensitive ecological habitats, the permitting process can be particularly extensive with multiple Federal, State and Local agencies involved, as well as the public.

In addition to regulatory permits and approvals, a project may need to meet certain requirements imposed by a financing institution (e.g. the Equator Principles). This is especially true for projects in developing nations funded by international financial institutions (IFIs), government aid (e.g. United States Agency for International Development [USAID]), international aid (e.g. United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP]), or other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

**Aquilologic** can either manage the overall environmental permitting process in a program/project management consultant (PMC) role, or obtain specific permits, such as National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permits.