

TOPICS



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Protecting Your Investment With Construction Compliance Monitoring

It's the moment you've been waiting for: project construction groundbreaking. It's been three years in the making, maybe more. You've invited dignitaries, written speeches, and gotten the contractors set up with a field office. Your company has spent millions leading up to this day. You want to ensure the construction process comes off without a hitch. You want to protect your investment. Construction compliance monitoring can help you do that.

Wind energy developers put nearly everything at stake when they go into construction. The myriad details have been drilled over countless times. With permits in hand, it feels like compliance concerns are behind you. But with millions of dollars on the line, it pays to go the extra mile and ensure compliance during Post-Design. You can't afford to get waylaid or have construction put on hold because a contractor inadvertently dug up an archaeological site, cut through an unrecognized wetland, or disturbed a virgin prairie. Successful wind energy development includes follow-through with compliance and monitoring requirements.



Photo Courtesy of Klaus Obel

Compliance issues frequently linger after construction starts. Permits, or the agreements behind them, may carry conditions requiring on-site monitoring during or after construction. Although monitoring may seem like a burden, it provides a valuable tool for reducing compliance risks and eliminating future problems. Compliance risks include incidental violation of permit requirements, disruption of protected habitats, and misidentification of cultural resources. If not properly addressed, such risks can lead to fines, lawsuits, or suspension or revocation of permits, ultimately causing delays and extra expenses. Getting the project back on track and repairing relationships takes additional time and money.

Environmental and archaeological compliance monitoring assists in keeping construction contractors out of sensitive areas. On-site expert environmental and archaeological specialists work with contractors in the event of field adjustment of access road, crane path, and collection cable routes. This collaboration between specialists and contractors helps ensure avoidance of culturally sensitive areas, wetlands, and other valuable resources.

The return on your investment in compliance is not just reduced risk. Construction monitoring helps energy developers build positive public reputations as land stewards. Instead of burning bridges with agencies, construction compliance monitoring can build a bridge to smooth sailing on future permits. Especially on large, complex projects, it is worth determining how monitoring can make the Post-Design phase – and thus your whole project – a success.



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