USACE EM09-P: Pipeline Specification Requirement

Implemented September 1, 2013, EM09-P is a new requirement for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New Orleans District permitting process.

*The **USACE EM09-P: Pipeline Specification Overview** can be found at: http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/EM09PPipelineSpecification.aspx*

Overview

The EM09-P Pipeline Specification Requirement was implemented in September 2013 to be used for digital data exchange of permit and as-built coordinates for pipeline/utility lines (product pipelines, electrical and fiber optic conduits, etc.).

The data captured in an EM09-P file is used to create shapefiles and database entries in a GIS environment, made available only within the USACE New Orleans District.

The requirement for an EM09-P file is at the discretion of the Operations Manager during the Operations Division's permit application review period.

The EM09-P file is an ASCII text-based file format, designed to be easy to create from survey data, easy to read and understand, and easy to process with a computer program.

FAQs

What are the timeline and cost implications of this new requirement?

- The only timeline and costs are those associated with compiling the appropriate data and submitting the EM09-P file. Permit review times are not anticipated to increase as a result of this new requirement. There is no fee associated with submitting the EM09-P file.

What triggers the EM09-P file requirement?

- The determination is made based on potential impacts to federal navigation projects managed by the USACE New Orleans District. Pipeline impact triggers to a federal project could include: dredging over/under utility lines, levee improvements/enlargements over/under utilities, disposing dredged material/machinery over utilities, risk from scouring near a diversion, etc.

What information is included in an EM09-P file?

- The minimum requirements for any EM09-P file includes northing, easting, and top of pipe depths at intervals along the pipeline. Also required is header information used to define the general metadata applicable to the file. Header information includes date, vertical accuracy, permit number, units of measure, zone (UTM or State Plane), pipeline owner and contact information, as well as textual descriptions of the pipeline location, among other items. A document detailing the technical specifications and requirements of the EM09-P file is available at the New Orleans District's EM09-P: Pipeline Specification Overview website.

Is the EM09-P file required for an entire pipeline if maintenance is only proposed for a small segment?

- If required, an as-built EM09-P file for the entire pipeline and a separate EM09-P file for the small maintenance project would require submittal. The as-built data may only be required within a certain area, not the entire pipeline. However, if the entire pipeline affects multiple federal projects, then an as-built EM09-P file may be requested for the entirety of the pipeline.

How are EM09-P files created?

- Two free converters are available on the New Orleans District's EM09-P: Pipeline Specification Overview website. One converter can read comma-separated, space-separated, or tab-delineated .txt files, which can be created by exporting the data from an Excel spreadsheet. Another converter is available for shapefiles that contain 3D line or point features. Once executed, the converters create an .em file that can be opened in Notepad so that the appropriate header information can be added.

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