Pipeline Safety Trust Annual Conference

Panel Presentation
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Seeking Better Conflict Mitigation Practices for Pipeline Development
What is the Consensus Building Institute?

CBI is a nonprofit focused on dispute resolution.

- Group of mediators and facilitators -> experts on people and process
- Act as informed but neutral party
- Deep experience with envtl. management, land use, and energy siting conflicts

Less experience with liquid and gas pipelines

- Line 3 siting in MN and tribal engagement
Given current controversies across North America regarding the construction of gas and oil pipelines…

What are “better” practices in conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution during project construction?

Steps:

• Confidential interviews with stakeholders/experts

• Background literature review

• Multi-stakeholder workshop (2019)

• Release white paper on better practices
In a time of deep skepticism, why try to do this?

“For God’s sake, think! Why is he being so nice to you?”
There is a lot to gain, potentially.

Images courtesy of CBS and Washington Times
What could a multi-stakeholder engagement project result in?

- **Consensus-based Conflict Mitigation Practices**
  - Common/Complimentary Purpose(s)
  - Process Maximizes Potential
  - Joint deliberation and assessment of facts

"CATALYZING COLLABORATION"
(1) Stakeholder assessment and convening

Players chosen carefully: interested, influential, affected
Balanced representation to achieve broader thinking, greater legitimacy
Roles, responsibilities, decision-making well defined
(2) Efficient, effective, transparent engagement

Different levels of involvement

Stakeholders know where they can “plug in”
(3) Mutual Gains Approach maximizes potential for high-value outcomes

- Advances individual interests
- Strengthens relationships by advancing common and complimentary goals
- Can address power imbalances
- Higher likelihood of producing effective outcomes, actions and agreements
(4) Skilled, impartial facilitation

Assess

Test goals

Design

Facilitate a mutual gains approach

Craft agreements and decisions to capture gains, reinforce relationships
Some Potential Topics

- Quality of life assurances and grievance response
- Care of cultural resources
- Landowner communications and relationships
- Public-facing construction standards and practices
- Protests and private and public law enforcement
- Worker and site security
- Construction crews and community relationships
- Construction and environmental monitoring and oversight
- Wildlife and habitat management and restoration
A better way by working together

Efficient
Effective
Legitimate
Transparent
Sustainable
Thanks for listening!

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CBI’s new book, *Resolving Land and Energy Conflicts*, is now available on Amazon.