



Colorado Water Supply

Planning and Permitting Handbook

January 2017 Update

Large water supply projects have enormous infrastructure, environmental, and legal complexities necessitating detailed planning and technical analyses. The planning and permitting process for projects can involve regulatory requirements at various levels including local, state, and federal levels. Understanding the regulatory requirements before a project can result in a more efficient and effective process. The Planning and Permitting Handbook, currently in development, is intended to help applicants, third-party consultants, and others incorporate regulatory requirements into water supply planning well before applications are submitted ensuring projects are designed to meet requirements on the front-end.

Last year, the State of Colorado and the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 8) convened a process improvement event focused on water supply permitting by bringing together representatives from state, local and federal agencies. Representatives from water utilities, environmental groups and other stakeholder groups were also present to share their experiences with large water supply project permitting. There were several outcomes from the event that focused on improvements to the NEPA scoping phase which could increase communication and cooperation across federal, state and local regulators.

If you are working on a new water supply project in Colorado, we encourage you to begin coordinating with state and federal agencies as early as possible.

The handbook is in progress and will be available spring 2017.

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