



The Shultz Family Leadership in Humanitarian Engineering Speaker Series presents:

Bringing the outside in – How listening to communities leads to better engineering and development outcomes

By David Atkins, Social Performance – Group Community Engagement Advisor

Shell Global Solutions US

Wednesday February 18th, 2015 4 - 5 pm
at Student Center Ballroom C



For many projects, the greatest challenge to implementation can be social rather than technical. For example, when the development proposed has no history, a negative legacy or a poorly defined risk/benefit proposition, public reaction can be skeptical, angry, or even escalate to conflict.

This presentation will explore lessons from projects that have experienced community conflict and strategies used to address concerns and regain trust. The presentation will further focus on methods companies employ to prevent conflict from occurring, with emphasis on the role of technical professionals. Finally, the presentation will explore Shell's approach to social performance and how learning from communities can lead to better impact management and lower project risk.

David Atkins is the Global Community Engagement Advisor for Shell. In this capacity, he works on improving the ways Shell ventures engage with and learn from communities near operations, primarily through reviewing the social performance of Shell assets and projects globally and managing the group-wide effort to implement, improve and report results from project-level community grievance resolution mechanisms. David has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics and an M.S. degree in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering and has worked on assessing, managing and mitigating environmental impacts in the extractives sector for over 20 years. For the past ten years, he has focused on engaging communities and company representatives to resolve conflicts over resource development. Before joining Shell, he served as technical advisor to the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman, the independent accountability mechanism of the private sector components of the World Bank Group (IFC and MIGA) where he applied his technical and mediation skills to complex, multi-party disputes related to development projects.

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