Buy America –
Utility Company Operations Compliance Perspective -
Implementation

AASHTO Subcommittee on R/W & Utilities
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Buy America – Utility Perspective

- BGE is an investor owned electric and natural gas public utility serving 2M natural gas and electric customers in central Maryland
- Coordinates with the Maryland State Highway Administration
- Member of the American Gas Association
- Gas operations are under the regulation of the U.S. Department of Transportation – PHMSA and the Maryland Public Service Commission
BGE – Service Territory in Central Maryland
Utility work associated with highway projects is now covered by statute.

Typical impact is relocation of existing facilities (pipelines, electric OH/UG lines).

Work is performed by utility company crews, utility company contractors, or within the highway contract by the general contractor.

Many utilities operate across several states.
Buy America – Implementation

- Individual project focus
  - Look at each situation individually – what is affected??
  - State determines application
  - Who will be involved – utility coordination

- Preliminary cost estimates
  - Basis for evaluation
  - Submittals to agency

- Required forms for participation – intent
  - Preliminary evaluation – early in the process
  - Aligned as much as possible with existing process
Buy America – Implementation

- Outreach to educate industry suppliers on the application of Buy America – new information
- Inclusion of supply chain –
  - Original source
  - Manufacturer
  - Distributor
- Education of involved personnel
  - Project managers
  - Designers
  - Purchasing – contract issues
  - Field construction
- Legal review of documents, company commitments
Buy America – Utility Approach

- Develop typical materials listings – associated with typical (past experience) highway projects
- Highway agency pre-acceptance of manufacturers/suppliers certification (on-file)
- Individual project job requirement certification by exception basis (materials certifications not on file)
- Joint company approach to materials (common – shared listings)
Buy America – Considerations for AASHTO

- Industry certifications - database
- Advance notifications and identification of scope earlier in planning
- Guidance on cost reimbursement for additional materials acquisition
- Utility industry waivers – potential for support with FHA
- Finding issues before they “hit the field”
Buy America – Utilities Compliance

- Thank you

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- Examples of Industry organizations:
  - AGA
  - INGAA
  - APGA
  - IEEE
  - PHMSA
  - State Public Service Commissions