



TheWadeGroup, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2010

CONTACT: Sultana Khan
(202) 776-7385

THEWADEGROUP LAUNCHES "PERMITTINGPARTNERS"
*Practice Will Help Clients Secure Essential Permits for
Strategic Economic Development Projects*

WASHINGTON – TheWadeGroup, Inc. announced today the launch of PermittingPartners, a new practice to guide clients through the often difficult challenge of securing essential permits. The practice will provide a range of services to clients who are seeking permits for strategic economic development projects.

"PermittingPartners is a unique business offering combining experts in permitting, business consulting, public affairs, and community relations," said Terry Wade, president and founder of TheWadeGroup. "We support the business and legal permitting process by helping our client's build open partnerships with community stakeholders so both the communities and our clients are able to reach a positive outcome."

PermittingPartners has the capacity to extend into local communities with a national network of representatives trained to act as the link between communities and clients. Practice capabilities include stakeholder mapping, strategic planning, coalition building and ally development, government affairs, public relations, and event and meeting planning.

"We are the 'people-people,'" said Lindsey Johnson, one of three practice leaders at PermittingPartners. "Our community-driven approach has proven successful in establishing a shorter, smoother and often times more cost-effective path for getting to 'yes.'"

PermittingPartners will be led by Johnson, Lee Khan and Judy Wade who have an array of experience in community economic development projects, and site identification and permitting.

Johnson has more than two decades of experience in community economic development, coalition building, and grassroots and grasstops outreach. For almost two years, she led a team of consultants for Independent System Operator (ISO) New England, the government-chartered manager of the region's electrical grid, where she focused on educating large energy consumers and communities on the need to increase generation and improve the transmission infrastructure. She was also the national director of the Office of Women's Business Ownership at the U.S. Small Business Administration and, early in her career, served as the director of legislative affairs for the Washington, D.C.-based law firm, Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand.

Khan has applied her expertise in site identification and permitting to counsel clients in the development of biomass plants, improvement of existing hydro, siting of pipelines and transmission lines, permitting of mining operations both underground and surface, and improvements to rail infrastructure. While

representing both a major mining company and a local railroad, Khan prepared a strategic plan to obtain community support for rail access to a public intermodal facility and the mining company's largest quarry. The plan was supported by all major environmental groups, local businesses and governments and led to \$30 million in federal funding. When the new rail line is completed, 70,000 quarry truck trips will be converted from state and neighborhood roads to rail.

Khan is known as an out-of-the-box thinker and problem solver. When working with neighbors and developers, Khan often finds herself in the middle of difficult and emotionally charged issues.

"Let's face it, every major energy development is in someone's backyard," said Khan. "Trusting your neighbor is where the process begins and all too often lack of trust is where it ends."

Wade has more than 25 years of experience as a partner at two of the world's most prestigious management consulting firms, Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers) and Accenture Consulting. She brings a unique perspective to PermittingPartners, having formerly worked with numerous Fortune 500 companies where she assisted them in strategic planning. Wade developed key baseline assessments, worked with teams to find creative solutions to complex business problems, and drove strategies to deliver key business objectives.

To coincide with the launch, TheWadeGroup unveils a new website for PermittingPartners, www.permittingpartners.com, which provides additional information on practice offerings, case studies, and biographies of practice members. The practice can also be followed on Twitter @permitpartners.

About PermittingPartners

PermittingPartners is a specialty practice established at TheWadeGroup, a Washington-based strategic communications agency, to help our clients and their partners reach their goal of obtaining approval for project start-up.

Using our unique stakeholder mapping process, PermittingPartners helps clients successfully navigate the "human side" of site identification and the permitting process. Our success is rooted in the ability to connect, empathize and engage with a wide variety of stakeholders on behalf of our clients; to understand the unique character of a community; and to address the concerns of its citizens in a thoughtful, specific and expedient manner. For more information, visit www.permittingpartners.com, or follow PermittingPartners on Twitter @permitpartners.

About TheWadeGroup, Inc.

TheWadeGroup, Inc., is a consortium of public affairs professionals offering clients an innovative alternative to the traditional agency experience. Centered on a unique "people-to-people" client service philosophy, TheWadeGroup combines a consortium of unparalleled senior-level communications talent with support from expert staff. TheWadeGroup provides clients with a broad range of services including strategic counsel, crisis and issues management, government relations, media training and relations, community relations and coalition building and strategic event planning. For more information, visit www.thewadegroup.com.

#