

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



Policies Affecting the Siting, Width, and other Characteristics of New Pipeline Rights-of-Way

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What FERC Regulates

- ✓ Interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil
- ✓ Reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines
- ✓ Licensing hydropower projects
- ✓ Electric transmissions lines siting



FERC Process

- **Inclusive**
 - Public Outreach, Notices, Public scoping and comment meetings
- **Comprehensive**
 - Detailed environmental analysis
- **Transparent**
 - e-Library

Phases of Project Review



➤ Project Preparation

- The applicant working on its own

➤ Pre-Filing

- FERC staff working with the applicant and stakeholders before the filing of an application

➤ Application Review

- FERC staff working with the applicant and stakeholders after the filing of an application

➤ Post-Authorization

- FERC staff working with the applicant and stakeholders to ensure compliance with conditions to the FERC approval

Public Involvement During Pre-Filing Review



The FERC Process

- Project Sponsor Sends Landowner Notification Package
- Issue Notice of Intent to Prepare the NEPA Document (i.e., scoping)
- Hold Scoping Meetings

Public Input

- Contact the project sponsor w/questions, concerns; contact FERC
- Send letters expressing concerns about environmental impact
- Attend scoping meetings

FERC Staff Pre-Filing Activities



- Identify affected parties:
 - landowners
 - agencies
 - other stakeholders
- Facilitate identification of issues
- Identify study needs
- Facilitate resolution of issues
- Issue scoping notice
- Examine alternatives
- Arrange and attend site visits and meetings
- Initiate preparation of preliminary NEPA document
- Review draft resource reports

Benefits of the Pre-Filing Process



- More interactive NEPA/permitting process, no shortcuts
- Earlier, more direct interaction between FERC, other agencies, landowners
- Transparency in the Pre-Filing Review Process
- Goal of "no surprises"

*FERC staff will be an advocate
for the process, not the project*

Public Involvement During Application Review



The FERC Process

- Issue Notice of the Application
- Issue Notice of Availability of the DEIS
- Hold Public Meetings on DEIS
- Issue a Commission Order

Public Input

- File an Intervention
- Register for e-subscription
- File comments on the adequacy of DEIS
- Attend public meetings to give comments on DEIS
- Interveners can file a request for rehearing of the Commission Order

FERC Guidance Affecting Siting, Width, and other Characteristics of Pipeline Rights-of Way



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- ✓ Use existing rights-of-way during siting and construction
 - ✓ Residences within 50 feet of work area
 - ✓ Review right-of-way widths (permanent and construction)
 - ✓ Offset between pipelines (foreign/looping)
 - ✓ Plan and Procedures = consistency

Conclusion



- ✓ The Regulatory System Requires Flexibility
- ✓ Encourage Policies that Improve Coordination and Consideration of Issues



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