

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 161

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Received

AN ACT

To provide for the timely consideration of all licenses, permits, and approvals required under Federal law with respect to the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of any natural gas pipeline projects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Pipeline
3 Permitting Reform Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS PIPE-**
5 **LINE PROJECTS.**

6 Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(i)(1) The Commission shall approve or deny an ap-
10 plication for a certificate of public convenience and neces-
11 sity for a prefled project not later than 12 months after
12 receiving a complete application that is ready to be proc-
13 essed, as defined by the Commission by regulation.

14 “(2) The agency responsible for issuing any license,
15 permit, or approval required under Federal law in connec-
16 tion with a prefled project for which a certificate of public
17 convenience and necessity is sought under this Act shall
18 approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or ap-
19 proval not later than 90 days after the Commission issues
20 its final environmental document relating to the project.

21 “(3) The Commission may extend the time period
22 under paragraph (2) by 30 days if an agency demonstrates
23 that it cannot otherwise complete the process required to
24 approve or deny the license, permit, or approval, and
25 therefor will be compelled to deny the license, permit, or
26 approval. In granting an extension under this paragraph,

1 the Commission may offer technical assistance to the
2 agency as necessary to address conditions preventing the
3 completion of the review of the application for the license,
4 permit, or approval.

5 “(4) If an agency described in paragraph (2) does
6 not approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit,
7 or approval within the time period specified under para-
8 graph (2) or (3), as applicable, such license, permit, or
9 approval shall take effect upon the expiration of 30 days
10 after the end of such period. The Commission shall incor-
11 porate into the terms of such license, permit, or approval
12 any conditions proffered by the agency described in para-
13 graph (2) that the Commission does not find are incon-
14 sistent with the final environmental document.

15 “(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term
16 ‘prefiled project’ means a project for the siting, construc-
17 tion, expansion, or operation of a natural gas pipeline with
18 respect to which a prefilings docket number has been as-
19 signed by the Commission pursuant to a prefilings process
20 established by the Commission for the purpose of

- 1 facilitating the formal application process for obtaining a
- 2 certificate of public convenience and necessity.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 21,
2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.