

Union Calendar No. 192

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1900

[Report No. 113-269]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2013

Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Additional sponsors: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. RADEL, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Pipeline
5 Permitting Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS PIPE-**
7 **LINE PROJECTS.**

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

11 “(i) The Commission shall approve or deny a certifi-
12 cate of public convenience and necessity that is sought
13 under this Act not later than 12 months after providing
14 public notice of the application.

15 “(j)(1) The agency responsible for issuing any li-
16 cense, permit, or approval required under Federal law in
17 connection with the siting, construction, expansion, or op-
18 eration of any natural gas pipeline project for which a cer-
19 tificate of public convenience and necessity is sought under
20 this Act shall approve or deny the issuance of the license,
21 permit, or approval not later than 90 days after the Com-
22 mission issues its final environmental document relating
23 to the project.

24 “(2) An agency may request that the Commission ex-
25 tend the time period under paragraph (1) by 30 days. The

1 Commission shall grant such extension if the agency dem-
2 onstrates that the extension is necessary because of un-
3 foreseen circumstances beyond the control of the agency.

4 “(3) If an agency described in paragraph (1) does
5 not approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit,
6 or approval within the time period specified under para-
7 graph (1) or (2), as applicable, such license, permit, or
8 approval shall go into effect.”.

9 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

10 *This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Pipeline*
11 *Permitting Reform Act”.*

12 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS PIPE-**
13 **LINE PROJECTS.**

14 *Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f) is*
15 *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

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

21 “(2) *The agency responsible for issuing any license,*
22 *permit, or approval required under Federal law in connec-*
23 *tion with a prefiled project for which a certificate of public*
24 *convenience and necessity is sought under this Act shall ap-*
25 *prove or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or ap-*

1 *proval not later than 90 days after the Commission issues*
2 *its final environmental document relating to the project.*

3 “(3) *The Commission may extend the time period*
4 *under paragraph (2) by 30 days if an agency demonstrates*
5 *that it cannot otherwise complete the process required to*
6 *approve or deny the license, permit, or approval, and there-*
7 *for will be compelled to deny the license, permit, or ap-*
8 *proval. In granting an extension under this paragraph, the*
9 *Commission may offer technical assistance to the agency*
10 *as necessary to address conditions preventing the comple-*
11 *tion of the review of the application for the license, permit,*
12 *or approval.*

13 “(4) *If an agency described in paragraph (2) does not*
14 *approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or ap-*
15 *proval within the time period specified under paragraph*
16 *(2) or (3), as applicable, such license, permit, or approval*
17 *shall take effect upon the expiration of 30 days after the*
18 *end of such period. The Commission shall incorporate into*
19 *the terms of such license, permit, or approval any condi-*
20 *tions proffered by the agency described in paragraph (2)*
21 *that the Commission does not find are inconsistent with the*
22 *final environmental document.*

23 “(5) *For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘prefiled*
24 *project’ means a project for the siting, construction, expan-*
25 *sion, or operation of a natural gas pipeline with respect*

1 *to which a prefiling docket number has been assigned by*
2 *the Commission pursuant to a prefiling process established*
3 *by the Commission for the purpose of facilitating the formal*
4 *application process for obtaining a certificate of public con-*
5 *venience and necessity.”.*

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