

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 161

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

JANUARY 6, 2015

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

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”.

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

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

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

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

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

1 completion of the review of the application for the license,
2 permit, or approval.

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

13 “(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term
14 ‘prefiled project’ means a project for the siting, construc-
15 tion, expansion, or operation of a natural gas pipeline with
16 respect to which a prefiling docket number has been as-
17 signed by the Commission pursuant to a prefiling process
18 established by the Commission for the purpose of facili-
19 tating the formal application process for obtaining a cer-
20 tificate of public convenience and necessity.”.

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