

Testimony of Office of Energy Projects Director Terry L. Turpin
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power
May 3, 2017

Good morning Vice Chairman Olson, Ranking Member Rush, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Terry Turpin and I am the Director of the Office of Energy Projects at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Office is responsible for taking a lead role in carrying out the Commission's duties in siting infrastructure projects, including non-federal hydropower projects, interstate natural gas facilities, and liquefied natural gas terminals.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss drafts of the "Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act" and the "Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act." As a member of the Commission's staff, the views I express in my testimony are my own and not necessarily those of the Commission or of any individual Commissioner.

The Commission is responsible under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act for authorizing the construction of interstate natural gas facilities and under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act for authorizing the construction of import/export facilities. The Commission acts as the lead agency for the purposes of coordinating all applicable federal authorizations and as the lead agency for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The environmental review is carried out through a process that allows cooperation from numerous stakeholders, including federal, state, and local agencies; Native Americans; and the public. In order to maximize the engagement between the applicant and these various stakeholders, the Commission has developed its Pre-filing Review process. The Commission's current approach allows for a systematic and collaborative process, and has resulted in substantial additions to the Nation's natural gas infrastructure.

Since 2000, the Commission has authorized nearly 18,000 miles of interstate natural gas pipeline totaling more than 159 billion cubic feet per day of transportation capacity; over one trillion cubic feet of interstate natural gas storage; and 23 facility sites for the import or export of LNG. Over the past 10 years, the Commission has also issued 15 authorizations related to natural gas border-crossing facilities.

These results have been facilitated through the environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, which I believe has been improved through the Commission's approach through the Pre-filing Review phase of the project.

Regarding the discussion drafts, I note that many of the comments of previous Office Directors have been incorporated on similar past proposals and have been incorporated into these versions. As I explain in my testimony, the discussion draft on interagency coordination would alter the Natural Gas Act to include many of the existing practices the Commission currently uses successfully in its review process.

The discussion draft addressing cross-border energy infrastructure would add oil pipelines border crossing to the Commission's jurisdiction and would remove requirements for Presidential Permits for both oil and natural gas border crossings. Staff already has substantial expertise in analyzing natural gas pipeline border crossings and this could be extended to oil crossings under the final rules that the Commission would be required to issue.

This concludes my remarks on the discussion drafts addressing Interagency Coordination and Cross-Border Infrastructure. Commission staff would be happy to provide technical assistance as

you move forward with your consideration of this legislation. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.