

Good morning, Chairman Portman.

I'm 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 nonfederal hydropower projects, interstate natural gas pipelines and storage facilities, and liquefied natural gas terminals.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss FERC's process for reviewing this kind of infrastructure, as well as FERC's work with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.

As a member of the Commission's staff, the views I express in my testimony are my own and not necessarily those of any individual Commissioner or of the Commission.

Under the Natural Gas Act, the Commission is responsible for authorizing construction and operation of interstate natural gas facilities, and facilities for the import or export of natural gas. Since 2000, the Commission has authorized nearly 18,000 miles of interstate natural gas pipeline totaling more than 159 Bcf/day of transportation capacity, over 1 Tcf of interstate storage capacity and 23 sites for either the import or export of LNG.

Under the Federal Power Act, the Commission regulates over 1,600 nonfederal hydropower facilities at over 2,500 dams. Together, these represent about 56 GW of hydropower capacity, which is more than half of all the hydropower capacity in the US. In the last five years, the Commission has authorized 69 new projects with a combined capacity of over 2,400 MW and has relicensed 42 projects, which provide over 91 MW of generating capacity.

For both these types of infrastructure, the Commission acts as the lead agency for the purposes of coordinating federal authorizations, as well as for the purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act. The environmental review that's done is carried out through a process that allows cooperation from numerous stakeholders, including federal, state and local agencies; Native Americans; and the public.

The Commission's current approach allows for a systematic and collaborative process and has resulted in substantial additions to the nation's infrastructure. To a great extent the process established by FAST-41 to improve early consultation and to increase transparency of project review mirrors the Commission's existing collaborative process. Commission staff is committed to working with the Council to assist in successful implementation of FAST-41 and to ensure the most effective processing of energy infrastructure matters before the Commission.

This concludes my remarks. I'd be happy to take any questions you have.