

Terry L. Turpin Director, Office of Energy Projects
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Good morning Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Terry Turpin and I am 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 pipelines and storage facilities, and liquefied natural gas terminals.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss federal infrastructure permitting and the Commission's processes for conducting environmental reviews required under the National Environmental Policy 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.

Under the Federal Power Act the Commission regulates over 1,600 non-federal hydropower projects at over 2,500 dams. Together, these represent about 56 gigawatts of hydropower capacity, which is more than half of all the hydropower in the United States. In the last five years the Commission has authorized 71 new projects with a combined capacity of over 2,400 megawatts and has relicensed 42 projects, which continue to provide over 91 megawatts of generating capacity.

The Commission is also responsible, under the Natural Gas Act, for authorizing the 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, which totals more than 159 Bcf/day of transportation capacity, over 1 Tcf of interstate storage capacity, and 23 facility sites for the import or export of LNG.

For both of these types of infrastructure, the Commission acts as the lead agency for the purposes of coordinating federal authorizations for the purposes of complying with the National Environment Policy Act. As described in my written testimony, this 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.

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 processes envisioned by legislation such as FAST 41 and the recent Executive Order 13807 parallel the Commission's own approaches in improving early consultation and increasing transparency of project review. Commission staff is committed to

working with all federal agencies to assist in the successful implementation of these goals and to ensure the most effective processing of infrastructure matters before the Commission.

This concludes my opening remarks. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.