



TOP 5 TIPS FOR POWERFUL COMMENTS

YOUR COMMENTS MATTER

Public comments are a crucial part of the review process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Your comments provide FERC with key information about community, local and individual concerns that help add important context, detail and data that can help the Commission make better decisions. For more information on writing powerful comments, watch the WorkshOPP on Tips for Powerful Comments: ferc.gov/OPP/workshopp-tips-powerful-comments. You also can watch other WorkshOPPs on OPP's workshop webpage: ferc.gov/OPP/workshopp-videos.

- 1 Organize yourself**
Review the filing you are commenting on. Gather any background materials.
- 2 Get to your point**
State, up front, your objective and your motivation for commenting.
- 3 Support your points**
Present a concise and thorough argument by including factual information and data, if available. Offer justifications to support your comments.
- 4 Be specific about impacts**
Provide specific examples of how you would be affected, negatively or positively. Include all data, charts, graphs, or maps that support your case. When recommending an alternative course of action, be specific about the alternative.
- 5 Understand FERC's role**
Knowing FERC's role in energy regulation will help you support your case. Connect your comments to issues, factors, or impacts that are within FERC's authority. Stay within the scope of the proceeding and focus on issues that FERC regulates.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(202) 502-6595 Local
OPP@FERC.gov

MEDIA

(202) 502-8680 Local
MediaDL@FERC.gov

FERC ONLINE SUPPORT

(866) 208-3372 Toll Free
Customer@FERC.gov

FERC.GOV





CREATE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

Consider these techniques for writing thorough and convincing comments on matters before FERC:

Technique: Identify Violations in Law or Regulations

LESS EFFECTIVE

The old mill at the end of our street has a rich history and may contain artifacts.

MORE EFFECTIVE

As required by the National Historic Preservation Act, FERC must take steps to identify and protect historic properties. The old mill at the end of our street has a rich history and may contain artifacts. At minimum, a historical survey should assess the mill's historic values and identify mitigation measures.



Technique: Offer Examples

LESS EFFECTIVE

The company underestimates the economic benefits of waste minimization.

MORE EFFECTIVE

The company underestimates the economic benefits of waste minimization. As the attached article shows, similar companies have already recouped the costs from implementing waste reduction programs.



Technique: Highlight Specific Concerns

LESS EFFECTIVE

The utility's proposal is overly-simplistic and we disagree with it as the utility should have proposed something more targeted. Also, the utility was dismissive of evident facts on the ground in submitting this proposal . . .

MORE EFFECTIVE

The method that the utility proposes to model power flows does not reflect the fact that the utility's system is highly interconnected with neighboring systems, which is not consistent with Commission regulations.



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