

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 113-25
H.R. 1900, NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PERMITTING
REFORM ACT

[Showing the text of the bill as ordered reported by the
Committee on Energy and Commerce.]

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Pipeline
3 Permitting Reform Act”.

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

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

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

14 “(2) The agency responsible for issuing any license,
15 permit, or approval required under Federal law in connec-
16 tion with a prefiled project for which a certificate of public
17 convenience and necessity is sought under this Act shall
18 approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or ap-

1 proval not later than 90 days after the Commission issues
2 its final environmental document relating to the project.

3 “(3) The Commission may extend the time period
4 under paragraph (2) by 30 days if an agency demonstrates
5 that it cannot otherwise complete the process required to
6 approve or deny the license, permit, or approval, and
7 therefor will be compelled to deny the license, permit, or
8 approval. In granting an extension under this paragraph,
9 the Commission may offer technical assistance to the
10 agency as necessary to address conditions preventing the
11 completion of the review of the application for the license,
12 permit, or approval.

13 “(4) If an agency described in paragraph (2) does
14 not approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit,
15 or approval within the time period specified under para-
16 graph (2) or (3), as applicable, such license, permit, or
17 approval shall take effect upon the expiration of 30 days
18 after the end of such period. The Commission shall incor-
19 porate into the terms of such license, permit, or approval
20 any conditions proffered by the agency described in para-
21 graph (2) that the Commission does not find are incon-
22 sistent with the final environmental document.

23 “(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term
24 ‘prefiled project’ means a project for the siting, construc-
25 tion, expansion, or operation of a natural gas pipeline with

1 respect to which a prefiling docket number has been as-
2 signed by the Commission pursuant to a prefiling process
3 established by the Commission for the purpose of facili-
4 tating the formal application process for obtaining a cer-
5 tificate of public convenience and necessity.”.

