

Federal Regulation

Pipeline Politics
Lafayette College
Engineering Studies



Six Key Federal Regulations Applicable to the PennEast Pipeline



The Natural Gas Act
The National Environmental Policy Act
The Endangered Species Act
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
The National and Historic Preservation Act
The Clean Water Act



The Natural Gas Act

- Makes FERC responsible for setting just and reasonable rates for transmission or sale of natural gas in interstate commerce
- FERC grants certificates allowing construction and operation of facilities used in interstate natural gas transmission
- FERC must approve the abandonment of any pipeline facility or service

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

- Preserves certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values
- River protection is provided through voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users
- Limits how much land the Federal government is allowed to acquire from willing sellers

The National Environmental Policy Act

- States Federal agencies shall to the fullest extent possible interpret and administer policies, regulations, and public laws of the U.S. in accordance with NEPA
- Federal agencies shall to the fullest extent possible assess reasonable alternatives to proposed actions that will avoid or minimize adverse effects of these actions upon the quality of the human environment

The National Historic Preservation Act

- Declares historical and cultural foundations of the U.S. should be preserved as a living part of community life and development
- Advocates increased knowledge of resources
- Encourages preservation of historic resources to improve the planning and execution of Federal or federally assisted projects, and to assist economic growth and development

The Endangered Species Act

- Protects endangered and threatened species and their habits
- Recovers imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend so they no long need protection under ESA
- Ensures the effects of authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species

The Clean Water Act

- Regulates pollutants including priority pollutants, conventional pollutants, and nonconventional pollutants
- States that any application for Federal license or permit must provide, for any activity that may result in any discharge into navigable waters, a certification from State and from interstate water pollution control agency having jurisdiction