Companies wanting to build a new or modify an existing interstate natural gas pipeline must submit an application to FERC.

FERC’s scientific, legal, and economic experts evaluate the environmental, cultural, geological, land use, and socioeconomic aspects of the project. As part of this review, FERC seeks written comments from the public and holds public scoping meetings.

FERC issues its analysis for further public comment.

After consideration of the environmental analysis; engineering, economic, legal, and policy reviews; and all public comments; FERC decides whether to approve or deny an application and, if approved, what conditions to apply to it.

All parties to an application can ask FERC for rehearing, or a new decision, if they are unsatisfied.

FERC considers this request before making a final decision.

All final decisions from FERC can be appealed to federal courts.

FERC does not regulate the production or delivery of natural gas directly to consumers. States regulate these areas.

To ensure safe construction and operation, all pipelines must comply with the requirements set forth by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).