



## FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

January 19, 2021

Robert R. Redfield, M.D.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

José R. Romero, M.D., FAAP  
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Redfield and Chairman Romero,

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the agency charged with regulating the transportation of oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids in interstate commerce along with its duties to oversee the reliability of the nation's bulk power system. Over the course of the last year, workers in the oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquid sectors have helped ensure the functioning of our nation's critical energy infrastructure.

It has come to our attention that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has updated its vaccine allocation guidance to place the energy workforce in Phase 1c. We recognize that developing vaccine guidance is a complex, iterative task that requires the balancing of numerous equities. We write with a narrow request: as the Advisory Committee continues to review and update its recommendations, we urge you to consider including in Phase 1b highly trained pipeline and storage field workers, operators, and control room personnel that perform functions critical to safeguarding system reliability. Those workers' duties can only be performed on-site, usually in close quarters, where full adherence to social distancing guidelines is impossible. And while these employees can be counted as among the most critical among the American workforce, they represent a relatively small population. We understand that the number is likely to be on the order of thousands of workers in each state. As such, we urge you to consider prioritizing these workers as the CDC continues revising its vaccine guidance.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussion regarding the urgency of protecting this subset of essential energy workers and the importance of their work when it comes to safeguarding America's critical energy infrastructure.



## FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Danly".

James P. Danly  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Chatterjee".

Neil Chatterjee  
Commissioner  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Glick".

Richard Glick  
Commissioner  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Clements".

Allison Clements  
Commissioner  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Christie".

Mark C. Christie  
Commissioner  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

cc: Mark W. Menezes, Deputy Secretary of Energy  
Brandon Wales, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency