

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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GAS PIPELINE TERMS

Abandonment: When real property placed on leased land through a pipeline easement ceases operation or function and the gas transport agency dismisses the responsibility of removal or remediation.

Baseline Assessment Plan: A baseline assessment plan (BAP) is the plan a pipeline operator must develop to assess the integrity of all of the lines included in its integrity management program. The BAP must show when each line is to be assessed and the assessment method the operator will use.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity: Also referred to as the Certificate, is issued by FERC and allows the recipient to engage in the transportation and/or sale for resale of natural gas in interstate commerce or to acquire and operate facilities needed to accomplish this.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): Federal regulations are published systematically (codified) in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR is the official compilation of the federal regulations of general applicability and legal effect. The CFR is divided into 50 titles that represent broad topical areas that are subject to federal regulation. Each title is divided into volumes, sections, parts, or chapters. Specific chapters or parts within each title are devoted to agencies having regulatory authority in that major area, in which all of that agency's regulations are codified.

Compressor Station: Facilities located along a natural gas pipeline that house and protect compressors, which are used to compress (or pump) the gas to move it through the system. Compressor stations are strategically placed along the pipeline to boost the system pressure to maintain required flow rates.

EA: Environmental Assessment evaluates the consequences of a proposed action on the environment and recommends measures to minimize any potentially adverse effects. An EA is prepared when the environmental scoping process has determined that the project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Easement: An acquired privilege or right, such as a right-of-way, afforded a person or company to make limited use of another person's or company's real property.

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement; the statement required of federal agencies by Section 102 (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, for major Federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Eminent Domain: the power to take or damage private property for a public use, provided that the owner is paid just compensation. VA. CONST. art I, § 11. Using this power, entities with the power of eminent domain may acquire private property from a property owner even if the owner does not wish to sell.

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement

FERC: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. An independent regulatory agency within the Department of Energy:

- regulates the transmission and sale for resale of natural gas in interstate commerce
- regulates the transmission of oil by pipeline in interstate commerce

- regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce
- licenses and inspects private, municipal, and state hydroelectric projects
- oversees related environmental matters
- administers accounting and financial reporting regulations and conducts of jurisdictional companies
- approves siting and abandonment of interstate pipeline facilities.
- 866-208-FERC (3372) or www.ferc.gov

Gathering Line: A pipeline that transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main.

Ingress, Egress, and Regress: In property law, ingress, egress, and regress are the rights of a person (such as a lessee) to enter, leave, and return to a property, respectively.

Interstate Pipeline: A natural gas pipeline company that is engaged in the transportation, by pipeline, of natural gas across state boundaries and is subject to the jurisdiction of FERC under the Natural Gas Act.

Intervenor: An individual who is not already a party to an existing lawsuit but who makes himself or herself a party either by joining with the plaintiff or uniting with the defendant in resistance of the plaintiff's claims. An intervenor formally participates in a Commission proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Intervenors are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. Landowners, local government, environmental agencies, and other community members impacted by a project can file to intervene.

Launcher: A pipeline component used for inserting an inline inspection tool, pig, or other device into a pressurized pipeline. After performing its task, the tool is removed from the pipeline through a receiver.

LDC: Local distribution company, a natural gas utility company which receives gas from a mainline transmission pipeline company and distributes the gas to the consumer.

NEPA: The National Environmental Policy Act. It requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions. NEPA requires that federal agencies prepare a detailed statement known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Pig: Also known as a "smart pig," a pig is an independent, self-contained, device, tool, or vehicle that is inserted into and moves through the interior of a pipeline for inspecting, dimensioning, or cleaning.

Reclamation: Returning the land to its original contour and vegetation.

Right of Way (ROW): A defined strip of land on which an operator has the rights to construct, operate, and/or maintain a pipeline. A ROW may be owned outright by the operator or an easement may be acquired for specific use of the ROW.

Transmission line: A line, other than a gathering line, that: (1) Transports gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a distribution center, storage facility, or large volume customer that is not down-stream from a distribution center; (2) operates at a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of specified minimum yield strength; or (3) transports gas within a storage field.

Scoping: A series of meetings that are used to solicit public input on potential issues and determine whether there is a potential for significant adverse effects to the human environment from a proposed energy project as well as to identify the scope of the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared.

Valve: A mechanical device installed in a pipeline and used to control the flow of gas or liquid.