

## FERC Public Comment Meetings

*Public Comment Meetings* are sponsored by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They are utilized by Commission staff to identify relevant issues of major Certificate projects, such as interstate pipeline projects. These comments are part of the agency's process of defining and refining the scope of an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) and the alternatives to be investigated.

***The programs are opportunities for public involvement. Affected property owners and other stakeholders can provide detailed comments about issues pertaining to their properties. For example, stakeholders can provide information on sensitive environmental features in the project area; suggest alternatives to be evaluated; or help identify construction constraints.***

*Public Comment Meetings* are conducted after the application is officially filed with the Commission.

***FERC meetings and hearings are open to the general public and are structured for people to make statements to the FERC staff about the project.***

During the course of the meeting, FERC staff describes the environmental review process with members of the public, provides relevant information, and answers procedural questions. Pipeline company representatives are present and typically give a summary of the project. They are available before and after the formal part of the meeting for questions and answers.

Comments on the proposed project may be submitted in written form or made verbally during the course of the meeting. The meetings are recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project. All transcripts are accessible and placed in the record through the Commission's eLibrary system, in the docket number assigned to the proceeding.

Information gathered at these programs help the Company and FERC staff prepare environmental mitigation measures to present in its environmental resource reports filed with the Commission in its Certificate Application. In return, this information provides FERC staff with the resources needed to publish a more complete environmental document for public review. Companies not involved in the pre-filing process are not afforded the benefit of resolving stakeholder concerns prior to filing their Certificate Applications.

## **Farm Bureau can provide briefings the help local residents participate in these hearings.**

Information shared at these briefings include:

- ❖ Background information and reason(s) for the local public hearing or meeting.
- ❖ The focus is *local* – Why FERC wants and needs to hear specifically from you.
- ❖ Reasons why farmers, residents and government officials are encouraged to participate.
- ❖ You do not need to be an expert – FERC wants to hear your comments and concerns about the project.
- ❖ Preparing Simple, Effective Testimony – Write a letter explaining your feeling/concerns on the issue.
  - ✓ Write about your family background and experience living and working in the area.
  - ✓ Were you able to meet the project developers; how were you treated as you worked on addressing your concerns?
  - ✓ Were you given ample time and resources to negotiate a lease agreement, or create an easement to allow infrastructure on your property?
  - ✓ Discuss your viewpoint on community challenges. How do you see taxes and/or other revenue from the project helping school and special programs in the community?
  - ✓ Discuss how you feel the company could/should work with local government and community groups to address concerns.
- ❖ Employing Legal Counsel
- ❖ Staying involved in the FERC process

### **Additional Information**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents.

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**NEXUS Pipeline Case Docket Number: CP16-22-000**