



Institute for
Policy Integrity
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 15, 2022

Contact: Derek Sylvan | (614) 638-8282 | derek.sylvan@nyu.edu

NEW REPORT PROPOSES REFORMS FOR GAS PIPELINE APPROVAL PROCESS

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has authority to consider emissions, electrification, and other key factors when evaluating gas infrastructure needs.

Infrastructure decisions made today will shape the energy system for decades to come and dictate the fate of decarbonization efforts. Yet the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) uses a simplistic and outdated process to evaluate the need for new, long-lasting natural gas infrastructure such as interstate pipelines, resulting in a certification process that may fail to fully consider the public interest.

With FERC poised to reshape its approval process for new natural gas infrastructure [this week](#), a new [report from the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law](#) analyzes the Commission's authority to consider a broader range of factors when deciding whether a proposed project is in the public interest. The report offers four key recommendations for reform.

To determine whether a new gas project is needed, FERC should not only consider whether pipeline developers can secure contracts with gas shippers (as in current practice), but should also:

- (1) Consider project need through a regional lens to avoid overbuilding, prevent unjust gas transport rates, and ensure cost-effective natural gas infrastructure is developed.
- (2) Incorporate electric transmission in this analysis to coordinate gas and electric infrastructure decisions holistically.
- (3) Account for climate-related transition risk and opportunity, and potential costs of stranded assets.
- (4) Consider a project's climate impacts, using monetized damage estimates.

The full report, ***Reforming Pipeline Review: Taking a Closer Look at the Need for New Natural Gas Infrastructure*** is available at:

<https://policyintegrity.org/publications/detail/reforming-pipeline-review>

The authors are available for interviews on these issues.

###

[The Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.