

## VOICES

### *Victory Over InFRACKstructure, Clean Energy, inStead*

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## **FERC's Proposed Pipeline Certification Review Process Is Nothing More than a Dog and Pony Show, says Coalition**

*Commission Ignored More than 10,000 who Called for Robust Public  
Participation Process*

**Washington, D.C.** - The pipeline review process announced today falls far short of community demands outlined in letters submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in January and a second submitted through FERC staff in April this year. In December, FERC Chairman Kevin McIntyre announced that he would review the certification process established in the agency's 1999 policy statement. VOICES, a national coalition of more than 200 organizations representing communities harmed by fracked-gas projects, called for FERC to begin that review with hearings in frontline communities to learn directly from their experiences with the FERC project review process as well as implementation of FERC projects.

The VOICES coalition, in [a letter](#) signed by more than 10,650 people and 123 organizations, demanded a series of public hearings in affected communities across the country and a comment period of at least 90 days. The process FERC laid out today includes a 60 day comment period, to commence with the posting of the Notice of Inquiry for initiating the Commission's review of its 1999 policy statement on the certification of new natural gas transportation facilities. There is no indication of public hearings or an opportunity for people to speak directly and personally to the Commissioners about their concerns. According to the discussion at the FERC Commission meeting today, comments should focus on: Determination and Need; Landowner Interest (including the use eminent domain); Environmental issues (including how FERC addresses climate change and the evolving science of GHG; Efficiency and effectiveness of certificate processes. A process beyond the initial 60 day comment period was not announced but may result based on comments submitted, Commissioner McIntyre suggested.

The coalition has identified serious abuses of power that arise repeatedly when the commission reviews proposed pipeline projects. For nearly three years, the coalition has been calling on Congress to investigate these abuses. In December of 2016, the coalition organized a [People's Hearing on FERC Abuses of Law and Power](#) at the National Press Club, where 63

representatives from 15 states and the District of Columbia testified. Their testimony was captured in a [People's Dossier](#) that was delivered to members of Congress.

“Communities across our nation are being abused by FERC and the fracked gas infrastructure projects they are advancing to the public detriment. To those who have been holding out hope that Chairman McIntyre’s review process was a signal of positive change, it is time to get your head out of the sand. Chairman McIntyre’s FERC is just as dirty as those of the past. FERC is nothing but a rubber stamp for dirty fossil fuels infrastructure. That is clearly not going to change, if anything, the rubber stamp will be swifter and heavier,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Whereas Commissioner Glick welcomed a meeting from community organizations, representatives of the VOICES coalition learned this week that they’d been denied a meeting with FERC Chairman McIntyre. Chairman Wellinghoff in the past was also open to meeting with community representatives. “McIntyre’s quick rebuke is clear confirmation that nothing has changed at FERC, if anything, it is going to get worse as a result of this process review,” added van Rossum.

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