

Who Regulates Which Pipelines About What?

Note: As you can see by reading below, this is a very complicated question. We have done our best to summarize it below. If you have questions, feel free to contact the agencies listed below, or maybe even us if that does not work. As a general rule the agencies dealing with larger pipelines are at the top of our list, while the smallest pipelines are at the bottom. There are links to many of the agencies identified below elsewhere on our website.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (F.E.R.C.)

Interstate transmission pipeline need and placement (including “eminent domain”).
Interstate transmission pipeline rates.

Federal Department of Transportation (D.O.T.)

Safety:

If it is an interstate transmission line (Sometimes by agreement,
State PSC acts on their behalf).

If 70 occupied structures within 1000 feet of one mile of pipeline length.

State Public Service Commission (P.S.C.)

InTRAstate transmission pipeline

Rates:

If transporting for 3rd party.

(Gathering systems may be intrastate pipelines past the compressor.)

Statutes only (not PSC)

Eminent domain for public utilities for "public" purpose (residential distribution
pipeline placement etc.) (Maybe not for individual residences.) .

State PSC residential distribution rates and cutoffs.

Public utilities.

Producer serving over 25.

Gathering line serving over 25, but maybe if under 25 and cause trouble.

Master meter (wholesale) purchasers who distribute and sell to others.

State PSC safety

Intrastate transmission.

Master meter over 25 (buy wholesale and sell).

State Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.)Water Resources Division.

Construction practices controlled by State “storm water” “general” permit.

State DEP Office of Oil and Gas (OOG).

Burying of gathering lines.
Leaking gathering lines.

County Commissions and Floodplain Coordinators

The installation of pipeline facilities, and perhaps even the laying of the pipeline itself may require a floodplain permit from your local County.