

Tunnel Vision

Trumped up "Energy
Emergency" Accelerates
Pipeline Boom



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Acknowledgments:

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The Environmental Integrity Project:

The Environmental Integrity Project is America's environmental watchdog. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting public health and our natural resources by holding polluters and government agencies accountable under the law. We advocate for tough but fair environmental standards and empower communities fighting for clean air and clean water.

For more information on EIP, visit:
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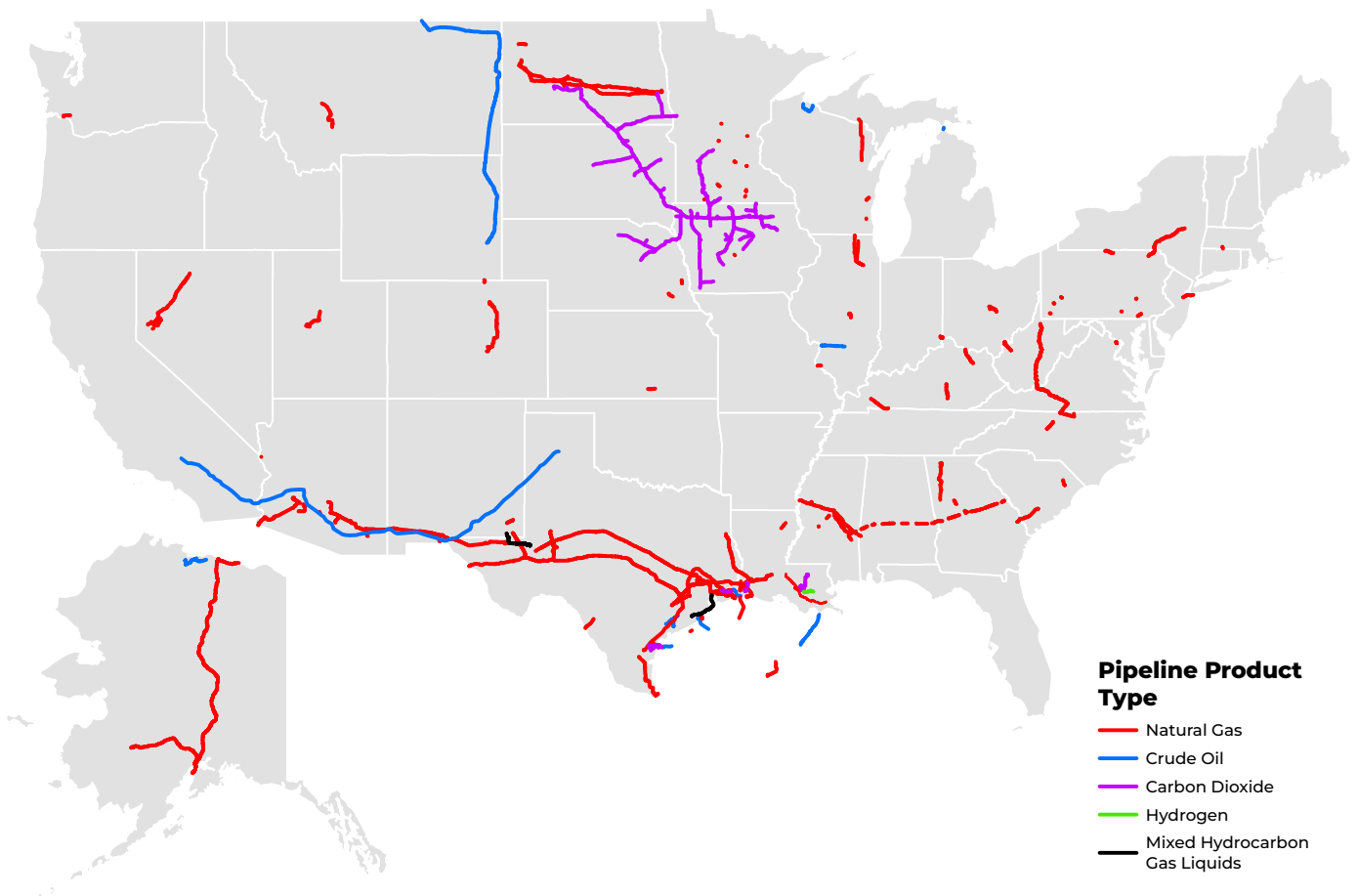
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A wave of at least 193 projects is proposed or under construction to build more than 17,000 miles of pipelines across the U.S., expanding the nation's network of natural gas, oil, petrochemical, and carbon dioxide pipelines. That's enough pipe to stretch from New York to Los Angeles, six times. Most of these new pipelines (151) would carry natural gas. If completed, the natural gas pipeline projects could have the capacity to transport nearly 126 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.¹ That means the new projects alone could deliver almost 40 percent more natural gas than the U.S. consumed per day in 2025.²

The growth in pipeline capacity is the largest since the dawn of the hydraulic fracturing era, almost two decades ago, when the expansion of new drilling techniques unlocked vast quantities of methane and petroleum in shale formations.³ Many of the new pipelines planned and being built across the country today are feeding the growing liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry along the Gulf Coast, which has been boosted by wars in Ukraine and Iran, as well as a flood of new gas-fired power plants for data centers.⁴

Pipeline Boom During Rollback of Safety and Environmental Rules

At least 193 projects are proposed or under construction to build more than 17,000 miles of pipelines — the largest expansion in decades.



Note: For a full list of projects and details, see Appendix B. Route information not available for all pipelines.

The Trump Administration has its foot on the accelerator to advance its “energy dominance” agenda.⁵ The administration has taken several actions to encourage the construction of pipelines. These include declaring a baseless “energy emergency” to justify accelerating permit approvals, reducing the scope and duration of environmental studies and reviews, and limiting public hearings and community input.⁶ The White House is also weakening pipeline safety rules and offering pipeline operators waivers from the enforcement of safety violations in large parts of the country.⁷ In addition, the administration is baselessly claiming that national defense overrides environmental concerns and using the Defense Production Act, a law that dates back to the Korean War, to advance pipeline projects.⁸ President Trump is sharply curtailing the ability of states to use a Clean Water Act certification process to stop proposed pipelines that could pollute rivers or streams.⁹ And the administration is weakening protections for endangered species and proposing a narrowing of the definition of protected wetlands, which would require fewer pipelines and other development projects to apply for wetland permits.¹⁰

Our nation is faced simultaneously with a dramatic expansion of the web of pipelines through our communities and waterways, and an administration actively working to undermine regulations meant to prevent these pipelines from exploding, leaking, and polluting.

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) studied thousands of pages of public records about pipeline projects, as well as permit applications, company announcements, and filings made with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, among other documents. We reached the following conclusions:

- Of the 193 pipeline projects that are proposed or under construction across the U.S., at least a quarter of them (52 of 193) have requested or received expedited or streamlined reviews from federal agencies including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Army Corps of Engineers because of President Trump’s “energy emergency.”¹¹ This is likely a conservative estimate because federal agencies are not publicly disclosing every action they take in response to Trump’s fake “energy emergency”.
- The Trump Administration has weakened pipeline safety rules intended to prevent explosions in densely-populated areas and cut back on enforcement. In 2025, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) initiated the fewest annual number of enforcement cases on record (112), which was about half the annual average of 217 over the previous two decades.¹²
- In a January 12, 2026 policy directive, the Trump Administration said that PHMSA would “refrain from taking any enforcement action” against pipeline companies that ask for waivers to avoid safety rules in the Northeast, West Coast and Alaska.¹³
- The Trump Administration is proposing to weaken the Endangered Species Act, including by indefinitely postponing endangered species consultations, eliminating consideration of habitat destruction when building pipelines and other projects, and by exempting the oil and gas industry in the Gulf Coast from the need for interagency consultations on wildlife and fish impacts.¹⁴
- The administration is working to sharply limit the authority of states to protect waterways by denying Clean Water Act approvals for pipelines that do not demonstrate compliance with state water quality standards.¹⁵
- At least 81 of the pipeline projects proposed or under construction are expected to damage more than 19,000 acres of federally-protected wetlands. The Trump Administration is working to reduce opportunities for public participation in the permitting process that aims to reduce and mitigate impacts on wetlands. For future pipeline projects, the administration is proposing regulations that would strip protections from 94 percent of the nation’s wetlands.¹⁶

The U.S. initiated

112 pipeline safety enforcement cases in 2025, **about half** the annual average over the previous two decades.

- At least 30 percent of these pipeline projects with known wetlands impact – 25 of 81 – have requested or received accelerated reviews of wetlands permit due to Trump’s claim of an “energy emergency.” In some cases, pipeline projects in Texas and Louisiana were given public comment periods of two weeks or less instead of the normal 30 days.
- More than 10,000 miles of natural gas pipelines are proposed or under construction in 42 states across the country, including 42 projects in Texas, 27 in Louisiana, and nine each in Pennsylvania and Illinois.
- Driven by federal subsidies, 13 carbon dioxide pipelines totaling 2,421 miles are proposed or under construction across seven states. Most of these projects are in Louisiana and Texas, but others are in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota.

At least

30%

of wetland-damaging pipeline projects have requested or received accelerated permit reviews.

EIP also visited and interviewed people living in communities where major pipelines are being built (see pages 32 to 42). In Cameron, Louisiana, fishers are angry that the construction of a gas pipeline is ripping up more than 1,000 acres of wetlands and rattling homes to feed an LNG terminal, while destroying the habitat for fish, shrimp, and oysters they rely upon. In upstate New York, homeowners said they were dismayed that President Trump is trying to override state opposition to resurrect the “zombie” Constitution Pipeline project. In Tennessee, hundreds of landowners are struggling to stop backhoes ripping through yards and gardens to build the 122-mile Ridgeline Expansion gas pipeline. And in Texas and Arizona, the 708-mile Desert Southwest Express pipeline project would serve the data center industry while threatening ecologically-fragile land.

Some of the local residents and environmental advocates EIP spoke to strongly object to the Trump Administration’s weakening of rules and safeguards for pipelines. They argue that the risks of leaks, spills, fires, and contamination from these 17,000 new miles of pipeline are too great to justify an accelerated, short-circuited, or secret review process.

This report recommends:

- President Trump should rescind the sham “energy emergency” declaration and reserve the use of emergency authority for genuine emergency situations, which do not currently exist. The Trump Administration should restore standard environmental review and public participation processes for pipeline projects to ensure that these projects do not harm public health or the environment.
- Given the number and scale of proposed pipeline projects, PHMSA should tighten safety rules and increase inspections, enforcement, and funding for safety research, which is the opposite of the actions taken by the Trump Administration to date. Congress and the states should step in if the administration fails to act.
- The Trump Administration should respect states’ authority under the Clean Water Act and continue allowing states to fully evaluate and, where appropriate, deny certifications for pipeline projects that may violate state water quality standards.
- States and Congress should strengthen protections for wetlands threatened by pipelines and other developments, as the Trump Administration moves to weaken them. Wetlands are critical for flood prevention, clean water, bird and fish populations, and absorbing carbon dioxide to combat climate change.

While the construction of some pipelines may be necessary, major projects that pose a potential threat to public safety and clean water must be scrutinized carefully and thoroughly, with full transparency and public hearings. There is no “energy emergency” that justifies the risk of oil spills, catastrophic explosions, or deaths. The safety and quality of life of the American people must come first, before the profits of multinational energy companies.

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CHAPTER 1

Where and What are These Pipeline Projects?



The Southeast Supply Enhancement gas pipeline project in North Carolina and Virginia will supply data centers and other users. It runs for 55 miles through a public park and near homes, including near Kernersville, North Carolina, shown here. Photo by EIP.

Where and What are These Pipeline Projects?

Natural Gas Pipelines

The United States is in the midst of the largest expansion of natural gas pipeline capacity since the height of the hydraulic fracturing shale gas boom in 2008.¹⁷ The key drivers of the boom are the growth in liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports, surging oil and gas production, and rising electricity demand driven, in part, by the data center industry. While new pipelines are being proposed across the country, the largest concentrations are in Texas and Louisiana, where infrastructure is needed to connect major supply basins with expanding LNG export terminals on the Gulf Coast.

Across the country, 151 natural gas pipeline projects are proposed or under construction in 42 states. If all of them are built, they could add 10,049 miles and nearly 126 billion cubic feet per day of capacity to the nation’s network of pipelines. That additional capacity for these new pipeline projects alone would be almost 40 percent more than the natural gas consumed in the U.S. in 2025 (92 billion cubic feet per day on average), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.¹⁸

Table 1. Top 10 Largest Natural Gas Pipeline Projects (by Capacity)

Company	Pipeline Name	State	Pipeline Capacity (MMscf/d)	Pipeline Length (miles)	Project Status
Driftwood Pipeline LLC	Driftwood Line 200 and Line 300 Project	LA	5,700	71	Proposed
Enbridge Inc., Rio Bravo Pipeline Company LLC	Rio Bravo Pipeline Project	TX	4,500	274	Proposed
Venture Global CP Express LLC	CP Express Pipeline Project	LA, TX	4,400	91	Under Construction
Driftwood Pipeline LLC	Driftwood LNG Pipeline	LA	3,954	99	Under Construction
Alaska Gasline Development Corporation	Alaska Nikiski LNG Pipeline	AK	3,900	870	Proposed
WhiteWater Midstream, ONEOK, Inc., MPLX LP, Enbridge Inc.	Eiger Express Pipeline	TX	3,700	610	Proposed
WhiteWater Midstream, Blackfin Pipeline LLC	Blackfin Pipeline	TX	3,500	193	Under Construction
ONEOK, Inc.	Saguaro Connector Pipeline	TX	2,834	155	Proposed
Corpus Christi Liquefaction LLC, Cheniere Corpus Christi Pipeline LP	Corpus Christi Stage IV Pipeline Expansion	TX	2,750	26	Proposed
Cheniere Energy, Inc., Sabine Crossing Pipeline, LLC	Sabine Crossing Pipeline	LA, TX	2,700	56	Proposed

Note: MMscf/d means millions of standard cubic feet per day. See Appendix B for the full list.

Pipelines for LNG Terminals

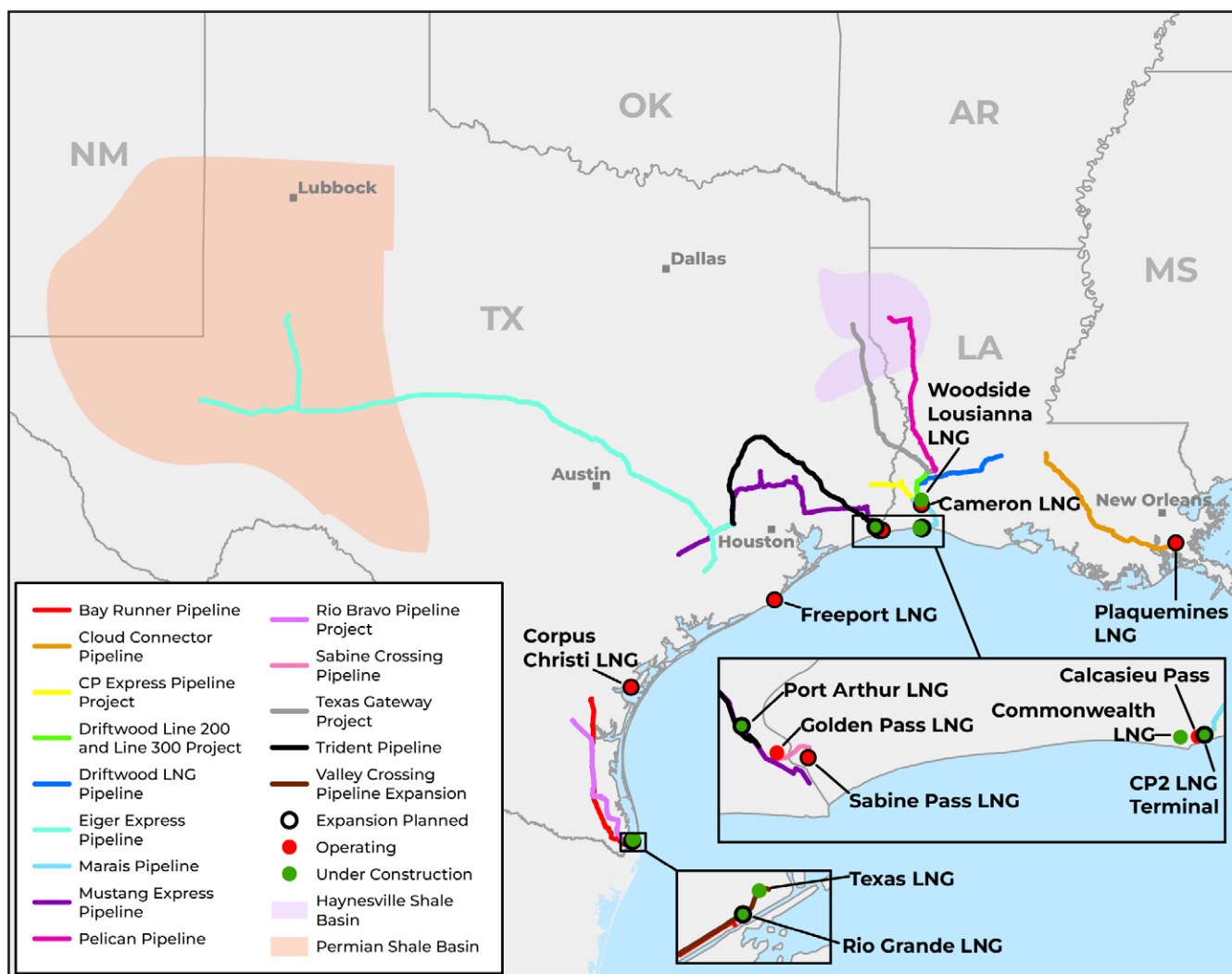
Ten years after the launch of the nation’s first gas export terminal, the U.S. for the last four years has been the largest exporter of LNG in the world.¹⁹ U.S. LNG exports broke records in the first months of 2026 following supply

disruptions in the Middle East caused by President Trump's war with Iran, which shut down the Strait of Hormuz and took nearly 20 percent of global LNG supply offline.²⁰

Eight export facilities are now operating across the U.S. and a ninth – the Golden Pass LNG Export Terminal in Sabine Pass, Texas – began the startup of its first liquefaction unit earlier this year. Six new terminals, all located in Texas and Louisiana, are currently under construction, which could nearly double LNG exports from the U.S. In addition to these six new terminals, companies have proposed another 29 projects, including 15 new LNG export terminals and 14 expansions that could add more than 300 million metric tons per year of liquefaction capacity if all are built.²¹ That means LNG exports could triple over the next decade.

All of these facilities will need to be supplied with natural gas by new and expanding pipeline networks. According to our review of state and federal permit records and company announcements available on EIP's Oil & Gas Watch database as of August 1, 2026, as many as 34 projects to install new gas pipelines or expand existing ones have been proposed to support the growing LNG industry in the Gulf Coast region.²² The pipelines scheduled to begin operations over the next three years could add close to 52 billion cubic feet per day of capacity to the Gulf Coast region. That includes over 850 miles of new pipeline infrastructure being built to deliver gas to the six Gulf Coast LNG terminals currently under construction.

Map 1. New Gas Pipelines Serving Gulf Coast LNG Expansion

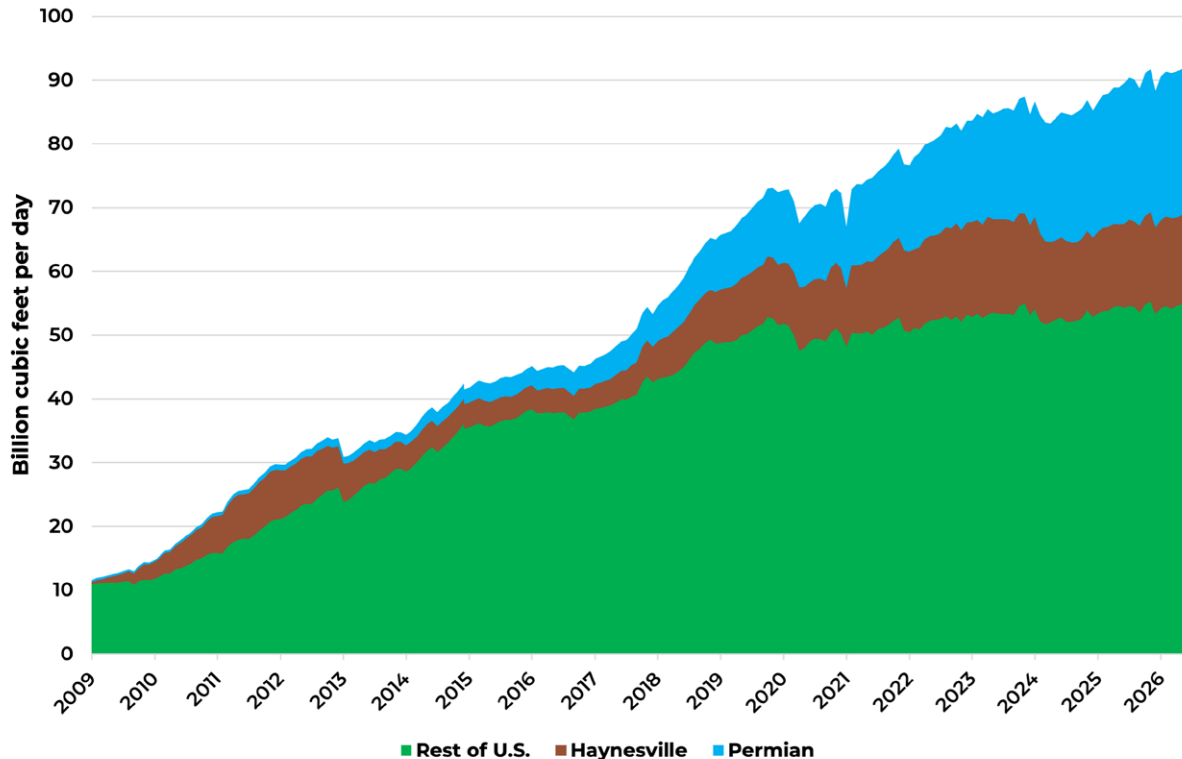


Pipelines to Move Gas Out of the Permian and Haynesville Shales

Several large pipeline projects have been proposed to bring gas from the Permian shale formation in West Texas and New Mexico, and the Haynesville production basins in East Texas and northwest Louisiana, to market for a variety of uses, including Gulf Coast LNG terminals. Oil and gas production in these regions has been booming for more than a decade, leading to a more than doubling in gas production since 2015.²³ That trend is expected to continue, especially as higher oil prices create more incentives to drill.²⁴ Oil wells in the Permian Basin are also expected to produce more natural gas over time.²⁵

The Permian Basin in West Texas and southeast New Mexico is a major source of what is called “associated gas,” which is natural gas that is produced alongside crude oil. Wells in the Permian Basin are responsible for about 25 percent of total U.S. natural gas production (see Figure 1), but a persistent shortfall in pipeline takeaway capacity has led to bottlenecks and negative gas prices. In extreme cases, that means producers have had to pay other businesses to take excess gas.²⁶

Figure 1. U.S. Natural Gas Production by Basin, Jan. 2009 – Aug. 2026



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Short-Term Energy Outlook, August 2026. Available at: <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/data.php>

These dynamics have spurred massive investment in gas pipelines to alleviate bottlenecks and move gas to higher-value markets along the Gulf Coast. Several new pipelines – spanning over 2,000 miles and capable of transporting more than 22 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day – are expected to begin operating by the end of the decade. Those include at least three pipelines under construction (the Blackfin, Pelican, and Trident pipelines), as well as the proposed Cloud Connector, Eiger Express, Mustang Express, Rio Bravo, and Texas Gateway pipelines (see Map 1). Developers plan to bring almost 41 billion cubic feet per day of new natural gas pipeline capacity online in the U.S. by the end of 2027, with more than three fourths of that growth from projects planned in Texas and Louisiana, according to public records and company announcements.²⁷

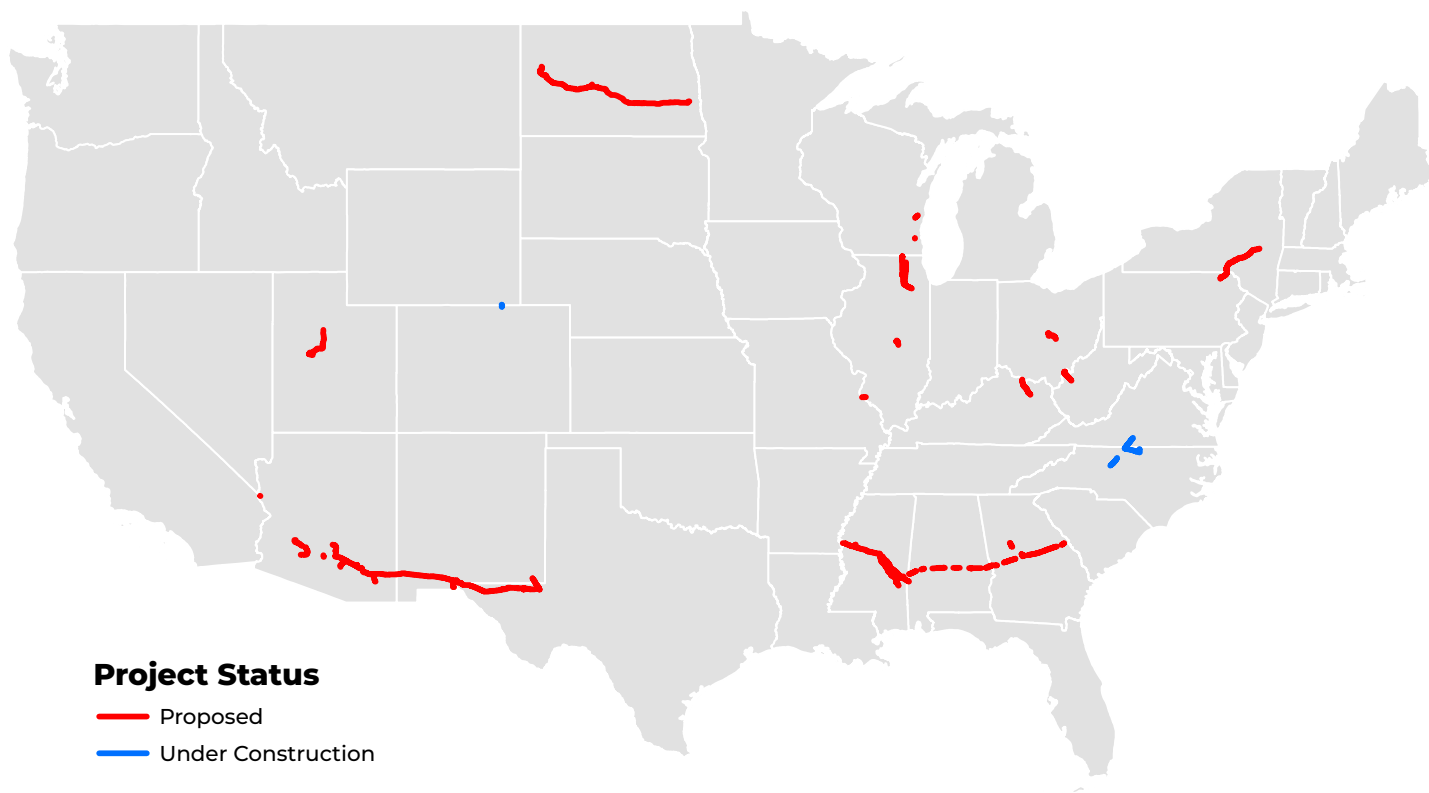
Pipelines to Supply Gas to Data Centers

At the same time, domestic demand for natural gas is increasing, particularly from the power sector. A growing number of gas-fired power plants have been proposed, in part to support the rising electricity demands of data centers. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that data center energy consumption could triple by 2028 compared to 2023 levels, accounting for as much as 12 percent of U.S. electricity use.²⁸ About 40 percent of power for data centers came from gas power plants in 2024.²⁹ Thousands more data centers have been proposed across the U.S.³⁰

As of August 1, 2026, at least 98 new natural gas-fired power plants were planned across the U.S. to provide electricity directly to data centers, according to an analysis of dedicated or “behind the meter” gas plants for the data center industry.³¹ Thirty-nine of these dedicated gas plants are proposed in Texas, 13 in Utah, 12 in Ohio, eight in Pennsylvania, four in West Virginia, and four in Wyoming. Altogether, this wave of gas plants could generate more than 116 gigawatts of electricity – more than one and a half times the capacity of the state of California’s power grid.³²

While not all of these proposed plants may be built, shifts in technology driven by the rise of artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency will likely continue to drive up demand for natural gas and pipelines for the next several years. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, the nation’s lead forecasting agency, projects that data center energy use will be a major driver behind growing electricity consumption through mid-century.³³ The expected increase in electricity demand from data centers is already spurring new pipeline construction, with at least 36 pipelines proposed to supply natural gas to data center projects, including in Texas, Ohio, Utah, Illinois, and other states.

Map 2. Locations of Pipelines Proposed or Under Construction to Serve Data Centers



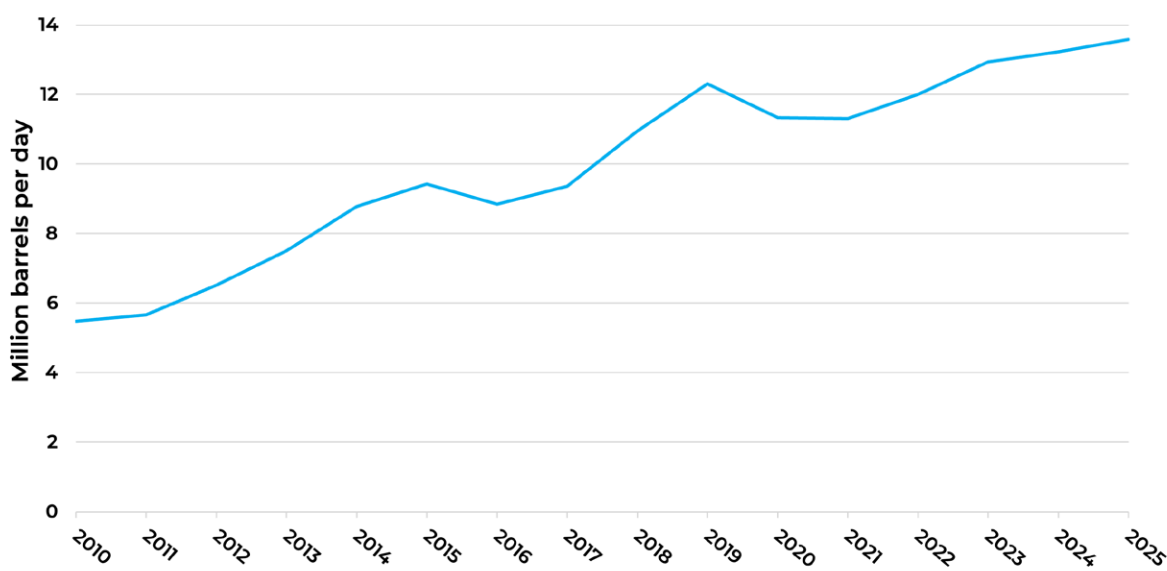
Note: For a full list of projects and details, see Appendix B. Route information not available for all pipelines.

Crude Oil Pipelines

There are 19 crude oil and oil product pipelines that are proposed or under construction across the U.S. They would add more than 4,000 miles of new pipelines capable of transporting more than 7.5 million barrels of crude oil per day. Some of these proposed pipelines will be concentrated in a central Midwest corridor traveling from the U.S.-Canadian border in Montana and North Dakota and then terminating in the Gulf States. Ten of these pipelines will have some portion of the project traveling through Texas or Louisiana because of the need to transport oil to export terminals in the Gulf region.

Since the repeal of a national ban on crude oil exports in 2015, crude oil production in the U.S. has increased by 44 percent (see Figure 2), setting a new annual production record of 13.6 million barrels per day in 2025.³⁴ The U.S. is producing crude oil more rapidly than any country in history, and under President Trump’s “drill, baby, drill” agenda these trends are expected to continue—at least in the near term.³⁵

Figure 2. U.S. Crude Oil Production



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Short-Term Energy Outlook, August 2026. Available at: <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/data/browser/>

Higher oil prices create more incentives to drill. Oil prices have surged since the start of the Iran war, elevating output in key production basins like the Permian.³⁶ But instead of sending that extra oil to local refineries to help bring down prices at the gas pump, fossil fuel companies sell to the highest bidder (often overseas) in order to boost their profits.³⁷

Like with natural gas, pipeline construction in the oil sector is also driven by exports. The largest proposed pipelines for oil products – representing almost five million barrels per day of additional capacity – are linked to proposed crude oil export terminals. These terminals include: the Blue Marlin Offshore Port in Cameron Parish, Louisiana; the Bluewater Texas Terminals Deepwater Port in Aransas County, Texas; and the Texas GulfLink Deepwater Port in Brazoria County, Texas. Together, these three pipeline projects represent about 65 percent of additions to crude oil pipeline capacity.

Table 2. Largest Oil Pipeline Projects (by Capacity)

Company	Pipeline Name	State	Pipeline Capacity (Barrels per day)	Pipeline Length (miles)	Project Status
Blue Marlin Offshore Port LLC	Blue Marlin Offshore Port (BMOP) Pipelines	LA, TX	2,000,000	37	Proposed
Phillips 66, Trafigura JV	Bluewater Texas Terminal (BWTX) Pipelines	TX	1,920,000	57	Proposed
Texas GulfLink, LLC, Sentinel Midstream	Texas GulfLink Pipeline	TX	1,000,000	54	Proposed
Bridger Pipeline Expansion, LLC	Bridger Pipeline Expansion	MT, WY	550,000	647	Proposed
Max Midstream	Seahawk Pipeline - Thunderdome Laterals	TX	486,000	63	Under Construction
Energy Transfer LP, Enbridge Inc.	Dakota Access North Project	IA, IL, ND, SD	250,000	Unknown	Proposed
Phillips 66, Kinder Morgan, Inc.	Western Gateway Pipeline	AZ, CA, NM, TX	200,000	1,300	Proposed
ONEOK, Inc.	Sun Belt Connector Pipeline	AZ, NM, TX	200,000	440	Proposed
Enbridge Inc.	Canyon Oil Pipeline	LA	200,000	199	Proposed
ConocoPhillips	Willow Oil Pipeline	AK	200,000	82	Under Construction
Energy Transfer LP, Enbridge Inc.	Southern Illinois Connector Project	IL	200,000	56	Under Construction
Enbridge Inc.	Flanagan South Crude Pipeline Expansion	IL, OK	200,000	0	Proposed

Note: See Appendix B for the full list.

Several more pipelines for oil products have been proposed to transport Canadian crude into the U.S., including the new Bridger Pipeline in Montana and Wyoming, and the Dakota Access North pipeline expansion in the Midwest. Elsewhere in the country, pipelines have also been planned to deliver fuels like gasoline or aviation fuel to key markets in Arizona and Colorado, including the 440-mile-long Sun Belt Connector and the 230-mile-long Denver Pipeline Project.

Map 3. Proposed Oil Export Terminals and Associated Pipelines Along Gulf Coast



Natural Gas Liquids Pipelines

As oil and gas production has soared, so has the production of what are called natural gas liquids (NGLs). These are hydrocarbon fluids extracted from natural gas that are used to manufacture fuels, chemicals and plastics. The most widely used NGLs are ethane (used to make ethylene, a primary ingredient in plastics) and propane (used to make propylene, also often for plastics), which together account for over 70 percent of U.S. production.³⁸ About 18 percent of ethane and 70 percent of propane produced in the U.S. is exported abroad.³⁹

The U.S. is now the largest producer of NGLs in the world.⁴⁰ Production has more than doubled since 2015, and quadrupled since 2005, with around 40 percent of that growth coming from gas released as part of associated oil drilling operations in the Permian Basin.⁴¹

Seven pipeline projects totaling over 700 miles are being developed to transport more than 1.5 million barrels of NGLs per day from the Permian Basin in West Texas and New Mexico to plants along the Texas Gulf Coast to separate the liquids into their component parts. Many of these projects accompany expansions at natural gas processing plants and fractionators.

Table 3. Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline Projects (by Capacity)

Company	Pipeline Name	State	Pipeline Capacity (Barrels per day)	Pipeline Length (miles)	Project Status
Targa Resources Corp.	Speedway NGL Pipeline	TX	500,000	500	Proposed
Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil	Cowboy Connector (Bahia Expansion and Extension)	NM, TX	400,000	92	Under Construction
MBTC Pipeline LLC, MPLX LP, ONEOK, Inc.	MBTC Pipeline	TX	400,000	45	Under Construction
Energy Transfer LP	Delaware Basin NGL Pipe Extension	TX	150,000	Unknown	Proposed
Energy Transfer LP	Lone Star Express Expansion	TX	90,000	0	Under Construction
MPLX LP	MPLX BANGL Pipeline Expansion	TX	50,000	0	Under Construction
MPLX LP, Marathon Pipeline	MPLX BANGL Pipeline - Texas City Extension	TX	Unknown	64	Under Construction

Note: See Appendix B for more details.

One of the largest is Targa’s proposed Speedway pipeline in Texas, which would transport 500,000 barrels of NGLs per day over 500 miles from West Texas to Targa’s fractionation and storage hub east of Houston in Mont Belvieu. There, the company is developing four new fractionation units at its sprawling Mont Belvieu NGL complex which would bring its total capacity to over 1.5 million barrels of natural gas liquids per day.⁴²

Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

In 2021, as a key part of President Joe Biden’s program to combat climate change, Biden signed the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, which provided billions of dollars in additional taxpayer subsidies to encourage industries to capture carbon dioxide and pump it underground.⁴³ President Trump has called global warming a “hoax.” But Trump in 2025 continued and expanded these taxpayer subsidies for carbon capture. His “One Big Beautiful Bill,” signed on July 4, 2025, directed more money to oil and gas companies that use captured carbon dioxide to force more petroleum out of the ground to burn.⁴⁴

Carbon capture is a technology that is largely unproven on a large scale, and it is unclear whether it will work or prove cost-effective to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. It could also pose significant public safety risks, because carbon pipelines can burst and asphyxiate local residents.⁴⁵ But in response to these billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, a wide variety of companies – including chemical manufacturers, ammonia plants, and oil and gas companies – are moving ahead with planned carbon capture projects that require miles of pipelines.

At least 13 carbon dioxide pipelines are proposed or under construction across the U.S. These projects would stretch 2,421 miles across seven states: Louisiana, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. More than two-thirds of these projects are in Louisiana, where 9 of the 13 carbon dioxide pipelines are proposed. One example is the Energy Transfer CO₂ Pipeline, which would stretch 150 miles from the Haynesville Shale gas drilling region in northwest Louisiana to an underground carbon storage facility in central Louisiana.⁴⁶

Table 4. Largest Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Projects (by Capacity)

Company	Pipeline Name	State	Pipeline Capacity (million metric tons/year)	Pipeline Length (miles)	Project Status
Summit Carbon Solutions	Midwest Carbon Express Pipeline	IA, MN, ND, NE, SD	12	2,000	Proposed
1PointFive	Blue Point-to-Pelican Pipeline	LA	2	Unknown	Proposed
Exxonmobil Low Carbon Logistics CCS Transport	TX-245 Rose CCS	TX	2	18	Under Construction
Sempra Infrastructure	Hackberry Sequestration CO ₂ Pipeline	LA	2	9	Proposed
Energy Transfer LP, CapturePoint Solutions, LLC	Energy Transfer CO ₂ Pipeline	LA	2	150	Proposed
Exxonmobil Low Carbon Logistics CCS Transport	Lake Charles Lateral	LA	1	12	Proposed
Exxonmobil Low Carbon Logistics CCS Transport	LA-122 and LA-122A CO ₂ Pipeline Lateral	LA	1	8	Proposed

Note: See Appendix B for the full list.

The longest carbon dioxide pipeline proposed nationally is the \$5.5 billion Midwest Carbon Express Pipeline, which would run 2,000 miles through five states, from Iowa to North Dakota as part of the largest carbon capture and storage project in the world.⁴⁷ The pipeline would transport the greenhouse gas captured from dozens of ethanol manufacturing plants and an ammonia factory across the Midwest to western North Dakota. There, the carbon dioxide would be injected underground to force out oil and gas that the company would sell as fuel. It's a practice called "enhanced oil recovery" that perpetuates climate change, but which makes up the majority of carbon capture projects nationally.⁴⁸ Like other carbon dioxide pipeline projects across the country, the Midwest Carbon Express Pipeline has provoked strong opposition from local landowners, many of whom fear gas leaks and asphyxiation. A carbon dioxide pipeline break in Satartia, Mississippi in February 2020 hospitalized 45 residents and killed the engines of vehicles trying to help with the emergency.⁴⁹ In part because of this risk, political opposition to carbon dioxide pipelines has been growing in Louisiana and the Midwest.⁵⁰

CHAPTER 2

Fake "Energy Emergency" Sets Tone for Trump Policy Changes



The U.S. has been exporting an increasing amount of its oil and natural gas, including through liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. Shown here is the Sabine Pass LNG terminal in southwestern Louisiana. Photo by Carlos Silva for the Louisiana Bucket Brigade.

Fake "Energy Emergency" Sets Tone for Trump Policy Changes

President Trump began his second administration by issuing a slew of executive orders designed to promote the fossil fuel industry. These included Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, and Executive Order 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*.⁵¹ Together, these orders set the tone for administrative actions that limit environmental reviews of major energy projects, including pipelines, speed up their approvals, and reduce enforcement and public input.

However, the declared “energy emergency” does not match the reality of what energy markets are experiencing. According to data from the Energy Information Administration, production of crude oil, natural gas, solar, and wind energy have all experienced drastic increases in recent years, including during former President Biden’s term. A 2024 assessment by the U.S. Department of Energy acknowledged that the U.S. electric grid “has been and continues to be very reliable.”⁵² The U.S. has been exporting an increasing amount of its oil and natural gas, but that has been a policy choice and not the result of an “emergency.”⁵³ More recently, the data center industry has been growing rapidly.⁵⁴ But this industry’s desire for more power plants and electricity to sell a product (artificial intelligence) is not an “emergency” that should require the federal government to fast-track permit reviews or limit environmental studies.

Even though the Trump Administration’s “energy emergency” is simply false (or a self-created problem in the case of data centers), the administration has used the fake “energy emergency” to justify its efforts to deregulate the oil, gas, coal, and mining industries and bog down the development of renewable energy.

For example, safety rules for pipelines are on the chopping block. The Trump Administration’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) has weakened community protection provisions, including limits on pipeline pressure in populated areas to reduce the risk of explosions. It has also cut the enforcement of pipeline safety regulations.⁵⁵ (More on page 20.)

The Department of Energy has also played a role in the Trump Administration’s deregulatory effort. Under the guise of national security, the department has taken broad steps to curtail standard permitting procedures to fast-track pipeline projects, including for re-starting the Sable offshore oil pipeline near Santa Barbara, California, which had been closed for a decade because of a major oil spill.⁵⁶ (See page 23.)

The Trump Administration has also proposed to slash protections for waterways and wetlands. To reduce permitting requirements for pipeline builders and other developers, the administration narrowed the ability of states to object to pipelines under the Clean Water Act and dramatically shrank the proposed definition of protected wetlands and “waters of the U.S.” that require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.⁵⁷ (More on page 26.)



Surging oil and gas production in the U.S. — along with growth of solar and wind power — show that energy supply is not an “emergency” issue. Photo by iStock.

Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act, a bedrock environmental law, has faced several blows that go directly against the law's purpose: to protect threatened species from becoming endangered, and to protect endangered species from going extinct. In July 2026, the Trump Administration's Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries services limited the regulatory definition of "harm" under the Endangered Species Act.⁵⁸ As a result, habitat modification – a primary driver threatening and endangering species – is no longer explicitly prohibited under the Trump Administration's interpretation of the act, and projects on private lands no longer must consider the potential harm from incidental habitat modification.⁵⁹

Several Army Corps districts, including in the St. Louis region and along the Texas Gulf Coast, have issued public notices signaling that they plan to indefinitely postpone Endangered Species Act consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service that would evaluate whether a project would harm endangered species.⁶⁰ The law requires federal agencies to consult with wildlife and fisheries experts to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize endangered or threatened species. But the law allows the administration to convene a six-member committee of cabinet members known as the "God Squad" to vote on whether to exempt a project from this interagency consultation. In March 2026, the Trump Administration's "God Squad" unanimously voted to exempt all oil and gas projects in the Gulf of Mexico from interagency consultations.⁶¹ Prior to 2026, the "God Squad" had only been invoked three times since its creation in the 1970s.



The Trump Administration removed Endangered Species Act protections from the lesser prairie chicken. That eliminated environmental safeguards that oil and gas developers must comply with. Photo by Always a Birder.

National Environmental Policy Act

The administration is also narrowing and accelerating environmental reviews. Last year, the Trump Administration significantly weakened the implementation of a landmark 1970 federal law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires studies of the environmental impact of large projects such as pipelines. The administration restricted the scope of these reviews and is instead allowing a patchwork of decentralized, agency-level determinations.⁶² The Supreme Court also issued a ruling last year that said that NEPA environmental analyses can only be for the project at hand, not for other nearby projects or for related projects in the future.⁶³

The President's allies in Congress approved legislation that allows companies to pay a fee to accelerate NEPA environmental impact statements, requiring the government to complete these studies in just one year instead of the two or three years often required.⁶⁴ The developers of several pipelines have suggested they may use this new quick-review provision, including for the proposed 160-mile Critical Energy Reliability Link Project in Colorado.⁶⁵

These are some of the most significant policy changes that the administration has pursued to accelerate the approval of pipeline and energy projects, although there are more. Overall, at least a quarter of the pipeline projects proposed or under construction across the U.S. (52 of 193) have requested or received expedited or streamlined reviews because of President Trump's "energy emergency," and this is likely a conservative estimate because federal agencies are not making public all the actions they are taking in response to the president's executive order. (See Appendix B for a list of pipelines that have requested or received expedited or streamlined reviews under the "energy emergency" policies.)

CHAPTER 3

Weakening of Federal Pipeline Safety Rules and Enforcement



Warning sign near a stack of pipes north of Cameron, Louisiana, where the CP Express pipeline is being built near several other oil and gas pipelines. Photo by EIP.

Weakening of Federal Pipeline Safety Rules and Enforcement

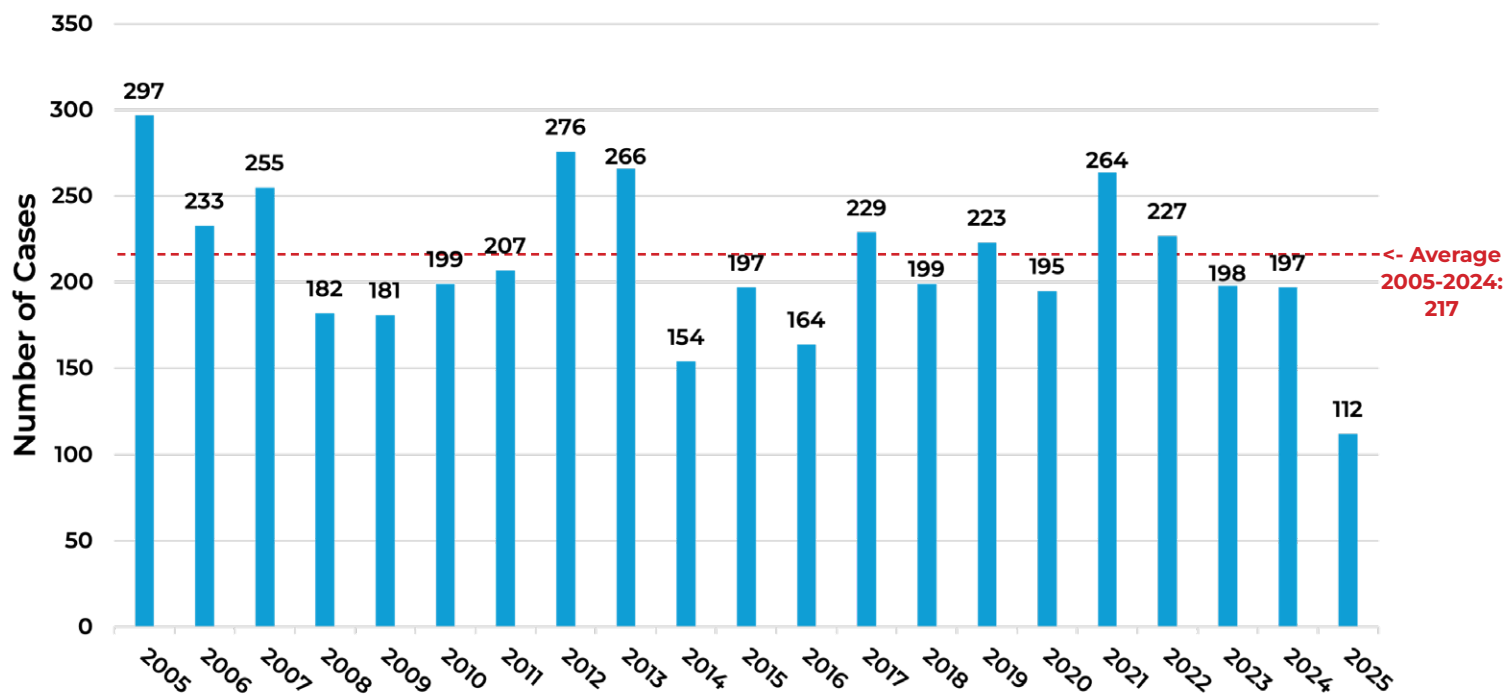
Few Americans are aware of the extent of the sprawling, intricate network of pipelines transporting oil, natural gas, refined fuels, and other hazardous substances below their feet. The U.S. has the world’s largest pipeline network, adding up to about three million miles, compared to about four million miles of public roads in the country.⁶⁶

Many of these pipelines operate safely, but failures can be catastrophic and deadly. For example, in November 2024, a home exploded in South Jordan, Utah, fatally injuring one person, after a crack in a nearly 50-year-old gas pipeline allowed methane to accumulate and ignite via the home’s furnace.⁶⁷ In another disaster caused by a crack in an aging pipe, a chocolate factory in West Reading, Pennsylvania, exploded in March 2023, killing seven workers and injuring 10 others.⁶⁸ One of the worst pipeline disasters in recent history happened in September 2010, when a natural gas line ruptured and exploded in San Bruno, California, killing eight people, injuring dozens, and destroying 38 homes while damaging another 70.⁶⁹

Since President Trump took office in January 2025, his administration has made several policy decisions to weaken pipeline oversight policies intended to keep Americans safe, including by softening important safety requirements and expanding loopholes to cut costs for pipeline companies.

The administration has also cut back on the enforcement of safety rules. In 2025, PHMSA initiated 112 new enforcement cases for pipeline safety violations, the fewest on record and about half the annual average (217) over the previous two decades.⁷⁰ The agency closed 164 cases last year, the lowest number since 2005 and about 27 percent less than the annual average (225) from 2005 through 2024.

Figure 3. Pipeline Safety Enforcement Cases Initiated, 2005 - 2025



Source: U.S. PHMSA, “Summary of Enforcement Activity: Nationwide,” Accessed June 12, 2026. Available at: <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/enforcement-data/summaries>.

One of the administration's most consequential regulatory changes involves safety requirements for pipelines, based on the population density of nearby residents. As population density increases around an existing pipeline, federal regulations have required pipeline companies to reduce the pipeline's operating pressure.⁷¹ Companies have also been required to conduct pressure tests or replace segments of pipelines in heavily-populated areas.

But in a final rule published January 16, the Trump Administration expanded a policy that allows companies to increase pressure on pipelines that have been operating under pressure restrictions for years, "without clear standards for how to do it safely," according to the Pipeline Safety Trust, a nonprofit advocacy organization.⁷² Bill Caram, the group's director, said that PHMSA "allowed pipes with known manufacturing problems into this program and provided weak guidance on restoring pressure to pipelines reduced years ago for safety reasons."⁷³

Separately, the agency has moved to expand other types of waivers and special permits for pipeline companies. In a January 12 policy directive, PHMSA stated that the agency would "refrain from taking any enforcement action" against pipeline companies that ask for and receive waivers from the Trump Administration to avoid certain safety rules.⁷⁴ The directive gives pipeline companies 45 days after building or upgrading pipelines to apply for a "special permit" to avoid enforcement if they sidestep safety rules during construction.

One of PHMSA's roles has also been sponsoring new research projects meant to help develop better materials, technologies, and safety protocols to reduce leaks, spills, explosions and other pipeline disasters. In September 2025, PHMSA canceled nine of these research and development projects, including three that were in their final month.⁷⁵

Canceled projects included \$280,000 for a Texas A&M University study modeling the impact of leaks from pipelines carrying carbon dioxide (CO₂). Proposals to build carbon dioxide pipelines have become increasingly common across the country because of taxpayer subsidies for carbon capture and sequestration projects as a method of addressing climate change.

While CO₂ is not explosive, the colorless, odorless gas is heavier than oxygen. This can cause the gas to pool on the ground, where it can displace oxygen, suffocating people nearby and smothering the engines of cars and trucks that could allow escape. The most severe example came in 2020, when a CO₂ pipeline ruptured near Satartia, Mississippi, causing the evacuation of more than 200 people and sending at least 45 to the hospital.⁷⁶

The Trump Administration's PHMSA last year said it had canceled the research project into CO₂ pipelines because of "a change in the administration's priorities."⁷⁷

Pipeline safety enforcement cases initiated fell by

48%

in 2025, to 112, compared to the average of 217 from 2005 to 2024.

CHAPTER 4

Using “National Defense” to Override Opposition



Oil drilling rig off the coastline of Santa Barbara, Ca., where the Trump Administration has forced the reopening of a closed oil pipeline, despite California's opposition. Photo by Way Out West News.

Using “National Defense” to Override Opposition

Using President Trump’s declaration of an “energy emergency” as justification, the Trump Administration claims that it can override state laws and state-level opposition to energy projects under the authority of a 1950 federal wartime law, the Defense Production Act. Approved by Congress during the Korean War, the act allows the president to identify specific goods as “critical and strategic” and intervene in the economy to ensure the U.S. has enough materials and infrastructure for national defense.⁷⁸ President Trump is using the Defense Production Act in a significantly more expansive manner than has been used in the past for military equipment or supplies during wars or pandemics. He argues that domestic energy production and infrastructure are essential to national defense, in a broad sense. And the administration continues to widen its use of this wartime law to boost fossil fuel production through the help of multiple federal departments.⁷⁹

On March 13, 2026, U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright cited President Trump’s invocation of the Defense Production Act to order the Houston-based Sable Offshore Corp. to restart a pipeline in California that caused a massive oil spill near Santa Barbara in 2015.⁸⁰ The move to restart the Santa Ynez pipeline represented a major development in a years-long battle with California officials over not only the closed pipeline but three offshore oil platforms and the pipeline connecting them to oil processing facilities on land.⁸¹

Secretary Wright claimed the restoration of the offshore drilling platforms and pipeline are necessary “to address supply disruption risks caused by California policies that have left the region and U.S. military forces dependent on foreign oil.”⁸²

Although the California pipeline is the only example so far of the Trump Administration invoking the Defense Production Act to advance a pipeline, advocates worry it could open a door for the administration forcing through more pipelines and infrastructure projects without appropriate environmental reviews and protections.



Crews clean up a massive oil spill from the Santa Ynez pipeline in Santa Barbara, CA, in 2015. The Trump Administration has used a wartime law to force the pipeline to reopen. Photo by Dreamyshade, Wikimedia Commons.

California regulators and environmental groups have taken numerous actions to try to stop Sable's attempt to restart the pipeline, which was shut down after a major spill. The pipeline burst in 2015, releasing more than 100,000 gallons of oil that fouled 150 miles of coastline, shut down beaches for two months, and killed over 550 seabirds. The so-called Refugio Oil Spill was the worst in the state in a quarter century.⁸³

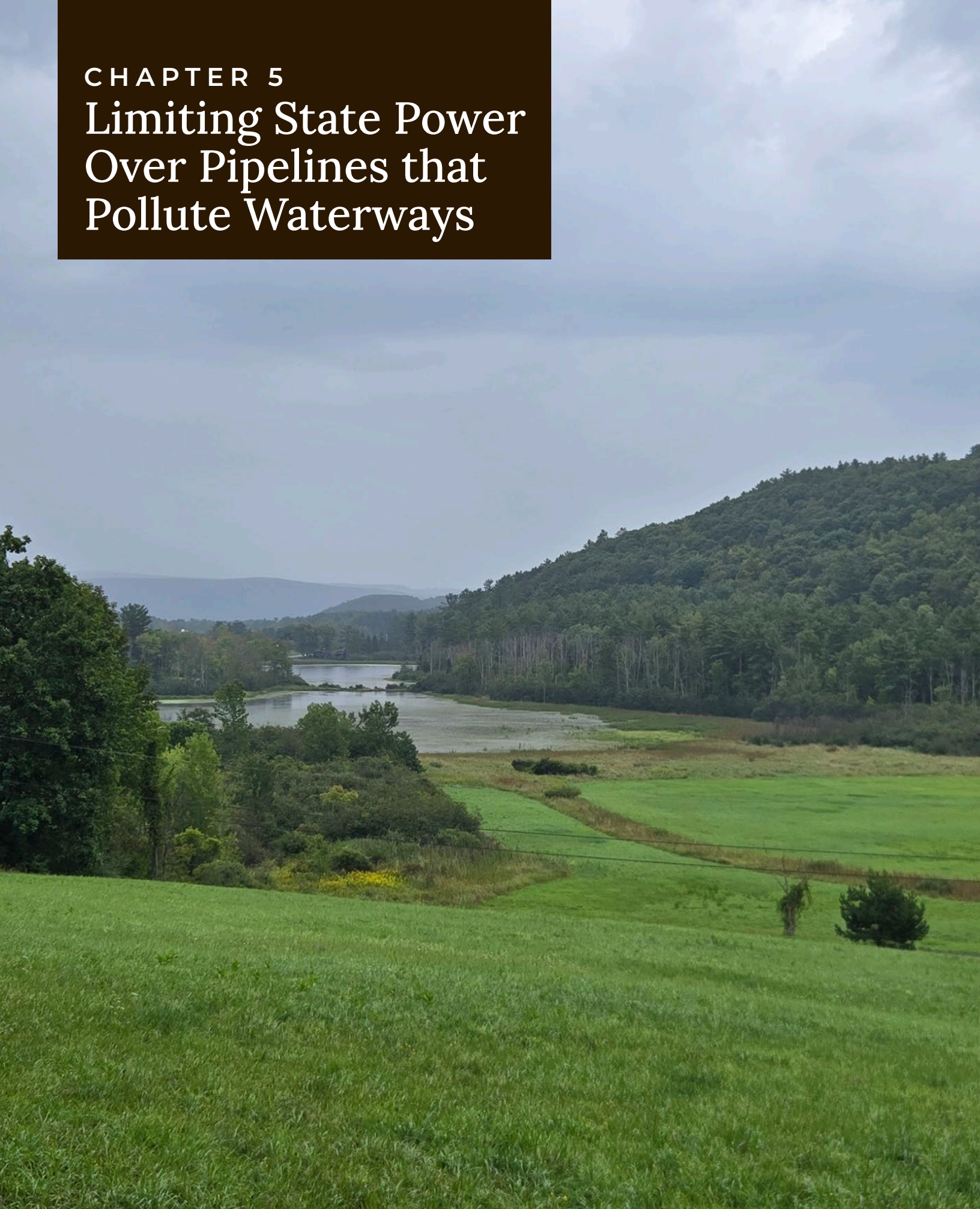
Despite the legal hurdles and environmental concerns, the Sable Offshore Corp. has not abandoned its plans to restart the pipeline, and the Trump Administration continues to take actions that help the company.

On April 20, 2026 President Trump released a set of memos asserting he could invoke the Defense Production Act to financially assist a variety of oil, natural gas, and coal projects.⁸⁴ The memos do not override state or local environmental laws, but they do pave the way for federal funding to help private companies build energy projects in the name of national security. For example, in June 2026 the Department of Energy announced that it would spend \$500 million in Defense Production Act Title III funds to upgrade and extend the life of 13 coal-fired power plants and build coal export terminal export infrastructure.⁸⁵

An analysis of the Trump Administration's use of the Defense Production Act by Rice University researchers found that, given the broad focus and lack of a specific timeline for the Trump executive orders, "there seems to be no clear end to its application."⁸⁶ The analysis notes that while previous administrations targeted specific bottlenecks related to industrial manufacturing, medical equipment, and energy supply for use of the Defense Production Act, Trump's order "declares the entire conventional energy supply chain—largely fossil fuels—as critical to defense and national security concerns."

CHAPTER 5

Limiting State Power Over Pipelines that Pollute Waterways



Limiting State Power Over Pipelines that Pollute Waterways

In January, the Trump Administration's EPA announced a proposed rule that would narrow a section of the Clean Water Act that states and tribes have used for decades to protect waterways.⁸⁷

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act mandates that any applicant for a federal license or permit for a pipeline or other project that could pollute a waterway must first obtain a certificate from the governing state or tribe confirming that the project won't violate water quality standards. The section is important because it gives states, and in some cases tribes, a meaningful role in deciding whether federally-permitted projects comply with state or tribal water quality standards.⁸⁸ It is one of the strongest examples of the cooperative arrangement between states and the federal government in U.S. environmental law.⁸⁹

For example, if a federal agency considers approving a pipeline that would cross streams or rivers, the state can block approval of the project if it believes the project will pollute the waterways. The state can refuse to issue a certificate to allow the project to move forward, or it can require additional erosion controls, stream restoration, or monitoring to ensure compliance with state water quality standards.

The narrowing of rules for pipelines will mean **"poorer water quality, poorer fish and wildlife habitat, and poorer health for Americans."**

- Southern Environmental Law Center.

However, under proposed new rules from Trump's EPA, states and tribes could only consider pollution from flows directly from pipes and outfalls (so-called "point source" discharges into waterways), rather than the overall impact of a project, including things like runoff pollution, damage to the landscape, and other cumulative impacts on waterways.⁹⁰

In February, 100 organizations from across the country, led by the Southern Environmental Law Center, sent a letter to EPA urging it to abandon the proposed new rule. They argued that it would make it harder for states and tribes to protect local water quality threatened by large projects, such as data centers, dams, pipelines, and new highways.⁹¹ The result of EPA's proposal "will be poorer water quality, poorer fish and wildlife habitat, and poorer health for Americans," the letter states.

In New York, state leaders are fighting back against the Trump Administration's attempt to circumvent the need for a state water Section 401 certification to resuscitate a proposed 125-mile gas pipeline from Pennsylvania to upstate New York called the Constitution Pipeline. (For more, see page 35.)

Of the Trump Administration's proposed limiting of Section 401 certification review, Amanda Lefton, New York's Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, said the inevitable result will be a worsening of water pollution.⁹² "By restricting the scope of water quality certification review to point source discharges alone, EPA attempts to prevent certifying authorities from considering a myriad of potential water quality impacts related to a waterbody's physical, chemical, biological and hydrological characteristics," Lefton said. "The foreseeable outcome is increased pollutants in waterbodies with particular harm to smaller waterbodies and wetlands."

CHAPTER 6

Limiting and Fast-Tracking Wetlands Permits for Pipelines



The Trump Administration is working to accelerate permit approvals and limit environmental studies for pipelines across the U.S., including in wetlands in Alaska. Photo by iStock.

Limiting and Fast-Tracking Wetlands Permits for Pipelines

In addition to crossing through rivers and streams, pipeline routes often cut through wetlands. Protecting wetlands is important because they clean and filter water, serve as breeding grounds for birds and fish, act as sponges to absorb floodwaters, and consume carbon dioxide to help fight climate change.⁹³ Overall, U.S. wetlands provide about \$7.7 trillion worth of services annually.⁹⁴ Unfortunately, the United States continues to lose thousands of acres of wetlands each year.⁹⁵

The wave of pipelines proposed during Trump’s “energy emergency” would accelerate this loss of wetlands. Among the 193 pipeline projects proposed or under construction across the U.S., 81 projects with 7,300 miles of pipes are expected to damage more than 19,000 acres of federally-protected wetlands. Much of this construction will be in Louisiana and Texas. But the pipeline project with the single largest impact to wetlands will be in Alaska, where the proposed 870-mile Nikiski LNG Pipeline is anticipated to damage at least 9,182 wetland acres, destroying wildlife habitat and destabilizing shorelines.⁹⁶

Table 5. Pipeline Projects with the Largest Projected Wetlands Impacts

Company	Pipeline Name	State	Product	Pipeline Length (miles)	Wetland Impacts (acres)
Alaska Gasline Development Corporation	Alaska Nikiski LNG Pipeline	AK	Natural Gas	870	9,182
Donlin Gold, LLC	Donlin Gold Mine Pipeline	AK	Natural Gas	315	1,715
Venture Global LNG	Cloud Connector	LA	Natural Gas	165	1,428
Venture Global CP Express LLC	CP Express Pipeline Project	LA, TX	Natural Gas	91	1,046
1PointFive	Blue Point-to-Pelican Pipeline	LA	Carbon Dioxide	Unknown	608
Cheniere Energy, Inc., Sabine Crossing Pipeline, LLC	Sabine Crossing Pipeline	LA ,TX	Natural Gas	56	550
Driftwood Pipeline LLC	Driftwood LNG Pipeline	LA	Natural Gas	99	426
Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP, Texas Gas Transmission, LLC	Kosciusko Junction Pipeline Project	MS	Natural Gas	111	372
Black Bayou Gas Storage, LLC	Black Bayou Gas Storage Project	LA	Natural Gas	54	316
Southern Natural Gas Company LLC	South System Expansion 4 Project	AL, GA, MS	Natural Gas	291	269

Note: See Appendix B for the full list.

Despite the value of wetlands, the Trump Administration is taking several steps to help developers obtain permits to fill or drain wetlands more easily and quickly build pipelines and other projects.

On November 17, 2025, the administration proposed regulations that would strip federal Clean Water Act protections from about 73.5 million acres of wetlands across the U.S., or about 81 percent of all wetlands.⁹⁷ The administration then went further on September 4, 2026, proposing to remove protections from more than 94 percent of wetlands.⁹⁸ If wetlands lose federal protections, pipeline builders and other developers will no longer be required to obtain wetlands permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, which are subject to review or veto by the EPA.⁹⁹

94% of U.S. wetlands would lose Clean Water Act protections under the Trump Administration's September 2026 proposal.

The administration's narrowing of the definition of protected wetlands followed a landmark Supreme Court decision on May 25, 2023, called *Sackett vs. EPA*.¹⁰⁰ The court's majority ruled that wetlands, to be protected by the Clean Water Act, must be immediately adjacent to and have a "continuous surface connection" to navigable waterways so that they are "indistinguishable" from rivers, streams, lakes and other downstream waters already protected by the Clean Water Act.¹⁰¹ This removed federal protections from millions of acres of isolated wetlands that are not connected on the surface to rivers or streams, such as Prairie Potholes in the Upper Midwest and Delmarva Potholes in the Chesapeake Bay region.¹⁰²

But then the Trump Administration took another step further to weaken protections when it proposed rules in 2025 in response to this Supreme Court decision.¹⁰³ Under the September 2026 proposed "waters of the U.S." rules, wetlands – to be considered federally-protected areas – must also be covered in water at all times, and dry for no more than 30 days in a year due to droughts or low tide.¹⁰⁴ This would remove protections from many seasonal wetlands and vernal pools that are important for water quality and biodiversity but are not literally submerged in water for the entire year.¹⁰⁵

For wetlands that still require Clean Water Act permits, President Trump – in his "energy emergency" executive orders – has ordered the Army Corps to "expedite the adjudication" of permits.¹⁰⁶ Of the 81 pipeline projects planned or under construction with anticipated wetlands impacts, 25 were designated by the administration for "energy emergency" review of wetlands permits. In three cases, pipeline projects in Louisiana and Texas were granted public comment periods of two weeks or less for wetlands permit applications. This was unusually short, because individual wetland permit applications typically have public review periods of 30 days and can be hundreds of pages long.

In Louisiana, the Army Corps of Engineers allowed the public only eleven days to comment on a permit that would allow Venture Global to destroy 1,428 acres of wetlands for the 165-mile Cloud Connector gas pipeline to the Plaquemines LNG export terminal south of New Orleans.¹⁰⁷ The federal agency allowed the public 10 days to comment on the Sabine Crossing Pipeline, a proposed 55-mile-long natural gas pipeline expected to impact more than 500 acres of wetlands along its path from Liberty, Texas, to the Sabine Pass LNG terminal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.¹⁰⁸ The Army Corps allowed the public only 14 days to comment on the Kinder Morgan Louisiana Pipeline Texas Access Project, a proposed 3.2-mile natural gas interconnection that could destroy 66 acres of wetlands near the Gulf Coast.¹⁰⁹

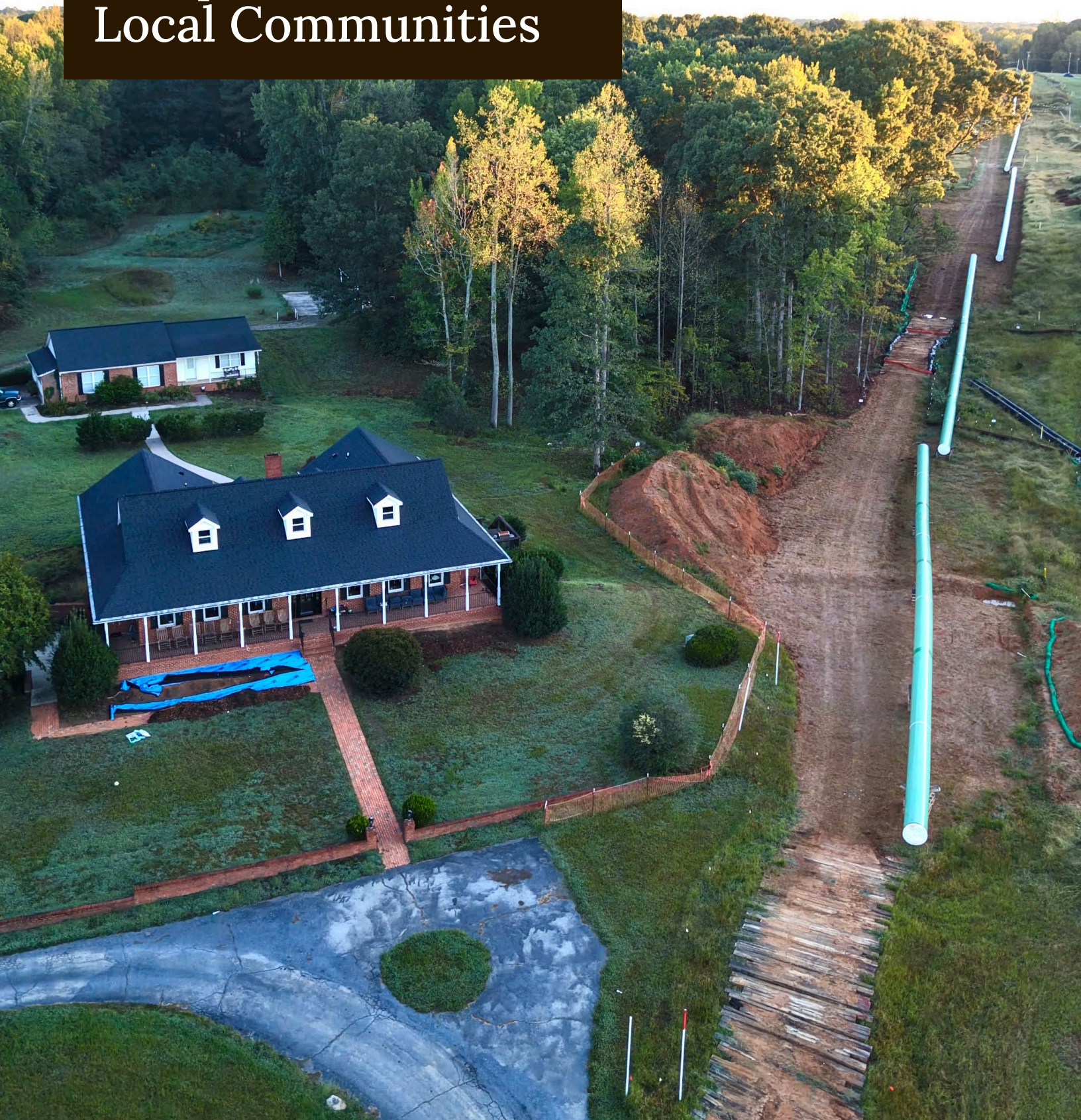
The administration is also now proposing that many construction projects skip requirements for public hearings, community notification, and in-depth environmental reviews by encouraging companies to apply for only a general wetlands permit intended for smaller projects (called the "Nationwide Permit 12") instead of an individual wetlands permit, intended for larger projects like pipelines.¹¹⁰

In a July 2026 lawsuit, the Center for Biological Diversity and other groups challenged the Trump Administration's increasingly wide use of this general permit.¹¹¹ The groups argued that the administration has been improperly using "Nationwide Permit 12" without limits even for large projects, which should be required to obtain individual wetlands permits. This shortcut has skirted requirements for in-depth environmental assessments, truncated the permit review period, and allowed companies to avoid public hearings and public notification.¹¹²

Individual wetlands permits require public comment periods of 15-30 days, opportunities for public hearings, and greater study of potential environmental impacts specific to each project.¹¹³ Issuing fast-tracked, streamlined, less-protective "Nationwide Permit 12" authorization is likely to further damage wetland habitats across the country. The construction of pipelines has been found to not only fill in wetlands – thus destroying habitat for wildlife – but also to obstruct surface water flow, increase soil compaction, decrease soil moisture, and provide opportunities for invasive plants to grow along a pipeline's route.¹¹⁴

CHAPTER 7

The Impact of Pipelines on Local Communities



Construction of the Southeast Supply Enhancement Project gas pipeline next to a home near Kernersville, NC. The pipeline is being built in part to supply gas to the data center industry. Photo by EIP.



LOUISIANA

Pipeline to New LNG Terminal Destroys 1,046 Acres of Wetlands and Rattles Local Residents

Pipeline segments stacked near the construction site of the CP2 LNG terminal, in Cameron, Louisiana, which will be served by the CP Express Pipeline. Photo by EIP.

A 91-mile long natural gas pipeline called the CP Express is being built from East Texas to a new LNG export terminal in southwest Louisiana, with a path that rips through 1,046 acres of wetlands in a state already suffering from rapid loss of coastal marshes.¹¹⁵

The CP Express and linked pipelines will cross 383 bodies of water – including in the federally-protected Sabine Island Wildlife Management Area – as it cuts from Jasper County, Texas, north of Beaumont and ending in Cameron, Louisiana, on the Gulf Coast, at the CP2 LNG terminal, which is under construction.¹¹⁶ The project includes a 187,000-horsepower compressor station to force the gas through four-foot diameter pipe.¹¹⁷

A coalition of local residents, shrimpers, and environmental groups – including For a Better Bayou, Healthy Gulf, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, and the Sierra Club – filed a federal lawsuit in 2024 to challenge the project that is ongoing.¹¹⁸

Meanwhile, the construction of the pipeline roars ahead, shaking the homes of local residents. In the once-quiet fishing community of Cameron, Brian DeBarge, a 62-year-old, third-generation shrimper, stood in his back yard on a recent afternoon and voiced his outrage as backhoes tore apart the wetlands behind his house.

“It’s been hell, man – the damn machines are literally shaking my home,” DeBarge said.¹¹⁹ “The banging, the shaking.

It's terrible for the wildlife, that's for sure. It's bad for the local people. They call this progress? It's progress for billionaires, maybe, but not for the community."

Not only can't he sleep because of all the noise, the traffic from the construction is nightmarish. It is so bad that he must wake up at 3 am just to beat crippling traffic jams on the town's only two-lane road. It takes him an hour just to creep a mile down the road to his boat dock.

Anthony Theriot, 51, another commercial fisherman, said the destruction of the wetlands and the dredging of the river for the project has crippled the local shrimping business, which was once the main economic engine of Cameron.¹²⁰

Theriot said that a spill of sediment from the construction site into a nearby bay in August 2025 killed 750,000 oysters he was raising in aquaculture cages, costing him about \$350,000. He complained that the destruction of more than a thousand acres of wetlands will also hurt the future ability of oysters, fish, and shrimp to reproduce. And the construction is also taking a toll on local people, with the dust triggering asthma attacks, he said.

"You get cement dust all over your house, all over your vehicle – you are breathing it every day, and you know this stuff is not good for you," Theriot said. "Everyone around here has breathing problems because you breathe this stuff every day. It's all over the boats, it's all over your property, it's all over everything."

Aaron Langley, 61, a shrimper who has lived in Cameron for more than a decade, shook his head as he watched the equipment rumbling in the marsh.¹²¹ "I'm sure that they are going to screw the wetlands up," Langley said. "You can see just what they are doing," he said, pointing to excavators slicing through marshes to dig a trench for the pipe. "It's not good."

James Hiatt, Executive Director of For a Better Bayou, said it's been difficult for his group to even track the impact of the pipeline project on local landowners, because the company has been secretive in its process of rights acquisition.¹²² About 1,440 acres of right-of-way were required for the pipeline, according to federal records.¹²³

Hiatt said his group and allies filed a lawsuit to challenge the authorization for the pipeline because the destruction of the wetlands will upend the fishing economy and the lives of the local residents.

"Just look at it," he said, watching workers force pipe down a trench behind a row of houses on stilts. "People have lived here for 60 years – their whole lives. And now a big disruption comes just because somebody wants to make a little bit of money. We are destroying not only the ecosystems that support people, we are destroying the ability of people to even live in this place."



Brian DeBarge, a third-generation shrimper, said the construction of the CP Express pipeline behind his home "is progress for billionaires, maybe, but not the local community." Photo by EIP.



NEW YORK STATE NY Denies ‘Zombie’ Pipeline Again and Trump Threatens to Revoke State Power to Protect State Waters

Protesters voicing opposition to the Constitution Pipeline in April 2016, Albany, New York. Photo by Erik McGregor via Anne Marie Garti, Stop the Constitution Pipeline.

In late January, New York State filed its opposition to the Constitution Pipeline, which would run 125 miles from the Marcellus shale gas fields in Pennsylvania to Albany, where the gas would be distributed to power plants across New England.¹²⁴

In its filing with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), state officials said they oppose the request by the developer, the Oklahoma-based Williams Companies, for a required certification that the construction of the pipeline – which would cross rivers and streams hundreds of times – would not harm water quality. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) denied the Clean Water Act Section 401 certification because it said the company is attempting to "bypass critical environmental reviews and undercut New York State's regulatory authority."¹²⁵

Williams resuscitated the long-contested Constitution Pipeline in late 2025, nearly a decade after New York regulators first denied the pipeline a water quality certification. After years of legal and regulatory battles, Williams canceled the pipeline in 2020.

Then the re-election of President Trump brought the pipeline back from the dead. Shortly after coming into office, Trump promised that the pipeline could bring down energy costs in the region by up to "70 percent" (a claim without basis) and that "most of the permits — almost all of the permits" are already in place.¹²⁶

Anne Marie Garti, an attorney and founding member of the grassroots organization Stop the Constitution Pipeline who has a home not far from where the pipeline would be built, said the 401 certification issue was critical to blocking the project, which would harm water quality, a decade ago.

In 2016, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation denied the Section 401 water quality certification for the project because the Constitution Pipeline Company failed to give the agency the information it needed to make a determination that water quality would not be harmed. The United States Court of Appeals upheld the agency's decision in 2018.¹²⁷

“We won in 2016 by convincing New York State to deny Constitution's application for a 401 water quality certification,” Garti said.¹²⁸ “Constitution kept losing in court and then threw in the towel.”

But now, the Trump Administration has launched a new offensive that could make it easier for this and other pipeline projects to obtain approvals. Part of Trump's new strategy is to change the rules of the game, by introducing proposed regulations that narrow the legal basis that states can use to deny 401 certifications.¹²⁹ The new Trump rules would not allow states to consider runoff pollution and other indirect environmental impacts when evaluating impacts to waterways.

Garti said landowners along the pipeline's proposed path are very upset about the administration's renewed maneuvering. “The feds are trying to take away our victory,” Garti said. “Landowners thought the nightmare was over, and then it came back. It's a horrible situation for them.”

One of the families that owns a home in the pipeline's path is the Bixbys. They own a farm in Schoharie County, NY, about an hour west of Albany, and six generations of family have lived on the land dating back to the late 1800s. During Constitution's first attempt to build the pipeline, the company invoked eminent domain to build the pipeline through the Bixby's land, including forested areas used for maple syrup production, hay fields, and wetlands that flow into a tributary of the Mohawk River. The family fought the project then and is still angry about it today. “The environmental impact is my biggest concern,” said Joseph Bixby, an owner of the farm. “All the mistakes and accidents that can happen – if they happen here, this land will be useless. These companies are trying to get you to sacrifice the quality of your land and water for billionaires.”¹³⁰

Another family in Schoharie County, Steve Fissel and Tanja Konwinski, also own a house in the way of the pipeline. They oppose the project because of safety and environmental concerns. But their land has an easement that the previous owner sold to the company, which allows Williams to build through the property without their consent. The couple purchased their home years after the project was canceled and said they would not have bought the property if they knew the pipeline was moving forward.

“This is so much more than just us and our neighbors. There are regional impacts that will happen because of this pipeline, and we cannot keep investing in fossil fuels,” Konwinski said.¹³¹ “The Constitution pipeline represents damage to the big picture of the protection of our region and the planet.”¹³²

After the project was revived in 2025, the developers submitted a new Section 401 application to NYDEC, but the agency found the application incomplete and the company withdrew the application in November 2025. Then, as a maneuver to try to avoid the state's Section 401 review altogether, the company instead petitioned FERC to allow



Steve Fissel and Tanja Konwinski own a house and property in the way of the Constitution Pipeline. Photo by EIP.

the project to proceed based on old federal approvals. New York officials argued this improperly overrode the state's Section 401 Clean Water Act authority.¹³³

In January 2026, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said she is strongly opposed to the federal efforts to force through the Constitution Pipeline. She said that while she's been open to natural gas as part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy, she's "been clear that any projects must be reviewed impartially by state agencies and comply with all applicable laws... I will fight any attempt to circumvent our state's authority or undermine our clean water laws."¹³⁴

In an August 2025 op-ed in *The Boston Globe*, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said: "New England should come together to support American energy infrastructure, including the Constitution Pipeline project, to provide much-needed grid stability, create jobs, and reduce energy prices across the region for American families who have suffered long enough."¹³⁵

Gillian Giannetti, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said Zeldin's defense of the pipeline is not only factually incorrect, but wrong in terms of what will best strengthen New England's energy system. "There's definitely an increased demand for electricity nationwide, and New England has historically been more dependent on natural gas than other regions," Giannetti said.¹³⁶ "However, that doesn't mean the solution is to build the Constitution Pipeline."

For starters, she said, the pipeline wouldn't even bring much gas to New England, as it terminates in New York and connects to existing gas pipelines that are already operating at or near capacity. She added that increasing natural gas to a region where many states have clean energy pledges and laws clashes with existing state policies. Giannetti said that the administration is trying to bring back a "zombie pipeline" that was an environmental disaster when first approved. "It was a bad project in 2013 and it's a bad project now," she said.





TENNESSEE Gas Pipeline for Coal Plant Replacement Leaves Residents With the ‘Worst of Both Worlds’

Construction of the Ridgeline Expansion Project next to a home near Wartburg, Tennessee. Photo by EIP.

For nine months, pipeline construction crews have been carving a path through the front yard of the home of Patricia “Trish” Smarsh and Jeffrey Gilliam near Wartburg, Tennessee.¹³⁷

First came the tree-clearing. Then backhoes ripped through soil and rock, excavating a trench, inserting the pipe, and backfilling with gravel and dirt. The crews widened a 50-foot pipeline easement that had gone unnoticed for decades.

“We didn’t have a clue they’d do anything like this,” said Gilliam, looking over the pipeline construction zone that chewed up the land about 15 feet from their front door.

Worst of all were the 10 days of incessant hammering from equipment needed to break up bedrock near their house. The vibrations drove cracks into their home’s foundation and dislodged their windows. “I just about lost my mind – it was nonstop pounding,” Smarsh said.

The couple is among hundreds of landowners affected by the Ridgeline Expansion, a 122-mile pipeline to provide natural gas to the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) Kingston Steam Plant.¹³⁸ In April 2024, the authority approved a plan to retire nine coal-fired power units at the plant, replacing them mainly with natural gas, along with solar and battery storage.¹³⁹

The decision was a significant milestone for the TVA, a New Deal-era water and power provider that supplies power to 10 million people across the Southeast.¹⁴⁰ In 2008, the facility was the source of a disaster when over 1 billion gallons of coal ash slurry burst through a containment dike, coating the Emory River and hundreds of nearby acres in black sludge that had high levels of arsenic, lead, and mercury.¹⁴¹

Moving away from this dirty fuel could have been a major turning point for the TVA.

But in February 2026, the TVA's board reversed the decision to stop burning coal at Kingston.¹⁴² President Trump in 2025 fired three Biden-appointed TVA directors and replaced them with his own nominees, giving them the majority on the nine-member board.¹⁴³ Because of Trump's explicitly pro fossil-fuel agenda, the decision meant the TVA would keep two coal-burning units running while adding natural gas-fired generators to Kingston.

It also paved the way for the Ridgeline Expansion pipeline project, which crosses rivers and streams in 751 places.¹⁴⁴ The route runs through the headwaters of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, one of the few free-flowing rivers remaining in this part of the state.

William Chandler, former executive director of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, donated land along the Obed River to the National Park Service to help protect the river.¹⁴⁵ "We get the worst of both worlds," Chandler said. "We get a pipeline through the headwaters of the Obed River... and we continue to suffer from the air pollution of that steam plant in Kingston."

Chandler said the TVA could have picked a location for its gas plant closer to an existing interstate gas transmission line and avoided tearing up private properties and crossing rivers and streams hundreds of times. "Why that pipeline had to be built through this priceless area is beyond me," Chandler said.

With construction on the project nearing completion, pipeline crews have already carved through winding valleys and steep hills threaded by Flynn Creek.

At Michael Hawkins' property alongside the creek in Jackson County, pipeline crews ripped up a steep hillside, cresting a ridge and descending back down the opposite slope to the valley below.

Hawkins and his late wife, both retired schoolteachers, purchased the land in the 1980s.¹⁴⁶ Full of birds that perched among dogwood trees that bloom white-pink in the spring, the land was once a hippie commune. The former owners left behind a small cabin, wood-fed stove, and a gravity-driven system to pump water from a local spring.

Pipeline representatives first contacted Hawkins in 2023. Since then, the project has consumed most of his free time on research, negotiating with company representatives, testifying at meetings, and writing comments to government agencies. "I was thinking about it all the time," Hawkins said. "I was obsessed with it."

He realized he had leverage with pipeline developer Enbridge, which needed his land for a new easement, rather than expanding an existing easement to lay an additional pipe. Hawkins named a sky-high price, which the company accepted. Still, Hawkins said he would give back all the money if it meant having the land back the way it was.

"This pipeline, it ruined my peace and quiet," Hawkins said. "I had a beautiful forest right there. I was retiring to paradise, and it has ruined all that."



Jeffrey Gilliam inspecting the Ridgeline Expansion pipeline in Tennessee that ripped through his front yard. Photo by EIP.



TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, AND ARIZONA

Massive 520-mile Gas Pipeline Would Rip Through Sensitive Conservation Land Across Southwest

The proposed Desert Southwest Expansion gas pipeline would serve data centers but threaten environmentally sensitive land.
Photo by Lon&Queta, Flickr.

A natural gas pipeline planned from West Texas to the Phoenix area would cross sensitive conservation land in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona on its way to fuel power plants for data centers and other large customers in central Arizona.

Transwestern, a subsidiary of U.S. pipeline giant Energy Transfer, on March 27 began the early stages of the permitting process for its Desert Southwest Expansion pipeline.¹⁴⁷

The project consists of a 527-mile main line, 4 feet in diameter, along with 13 smaller segments branching off the main line that total another 182 miles. Aside from the 708 miles of new pipeline, the company wants to build eight new compressor stations and expand two others in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.¹⁴⁸

The pipeline is one of the projects planned to relieve a natural gas bottleneck in the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico, where drilling for oil often also produces a large amount of gas as a byproduct that must be burned or released.¹⁴⁹ These gas surpluses, and limited space in the region's existing pipelines, have driven the price of gas here down into the negative.¹⁵⁰ That means gas producers often must pay customers to take excess gas off their hands.

Environmental advocates protest that the process of building access roads, digging trenches, laying pipelines, and crossing waterways would tear up vast swaths of sensitive desert landscapes home to rare plants and animals. They also argue that the pipeline would lock in decades more of fossil fuel expansion and use, increasing air pollution, fueling the climate crisis, and depleting scarce water resources.



Map of proposed Desert Southwest Expansion pipeline project and compressor stations. Red line shows proposed mainline. Yellow stars show compressor stations. Map by Energy Transfer on FERC public website.

“This industrial pipeline threatens habitat for some of the most vulnerable wildlife in the country,” said Graham Rex, an attorney at the Tucson-headquartered Center for Biological Diversity.¹⁵¹ “The American Southwest is already buckling under the pressure of climate change, unprecedented drought and the boom in data center construction. A massive new fossil fuel pipeline is the last thing the region needs.”

Northeast of Tucson, the pipeline would cross the 55,000-acre Muleshoe Ranch Cooperative Management Area, a mosaic of protected lands managed by the federal government and private landowners.¹⁵² The pipeline route would pass close to Hot Springs and Bass canyons, which have streams that support seven native desert fish species, including the endangered loach minnow, spikedace, and Gila chub. Constant water flow is rare in a desert ecosystem that only receives about 13 to 14 inches of rainfall per year on average.¹⁵³ The landscape is also home to endangered birds, including the yellow-billed cuckoo and Mexican spotted owl.

“Construction of a large-diameter pipeline typically involves a wide disturbance corridor, vegetation clearing, trenching, blasting in rocky terrain, heavy equipment uses, and ongoing maintenance access,” Daniel Stellar, Arizona director of the Nature Conservancy, wrote in a June 18 letter of opposition to FERC.¹⁵⁴ “These activities carry the potential for direct habitat loss, increased mortality risk, noise, light and chemical pollution, soil degradation, and long-term fragmentation.”

The pipeline would also cross the lower San Pedro River basin, which is among the largest natural, intact desert landscapes in Arizona.¹⁵⁵ While much of the north-flowing river runs dry during parts of the year, summer monsoon rains bring it to life, providing habitat to rare plants and animals.

Melissa Crytzer Fry, Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance chairperson, wrote in an August 4 letter to FERC that the pipeline “running alongside one of Arizona’s most pristine and important ecological riverine corridors spells potential disaster for wildlife and water resources already impacted by a devastating 26-year period of megadrought.”¹⁵⁶

Energy Transfer says the pipeline: “is being built to ensure utilities have the reliable energy supply needed to meet future power generation demand driven by population growth, business development, and industrial expansion.”¹⁵⁷ Its anchor customer, the Arizona Public Service company, has said the pipeline will provide fuel for natural gas-fired power plants to support data centers in the utility’s service territory.¹⁵⁸

With cheaper electricity than California and proximity to a major fiber-optic network, the Phoenix area has emerged as one of the largest hubs for data centers in the U.S., after Dallas and Northern Virginia.¹⁵⁹ The industry’s growth has led to backlash, with residents concerned about rising power costs and the draining of the region’s scarce water supplies. In August, county officials in Pinal County, southwest of Phoenix, rejected a developer’s proposal for what would have at one point been the state’s largest data center, along with a gas-fired power plant.¹⁶⁰

Before construction of the pipeline, Energy Transfer must officially file its application with FERC, which will trigger an additional round of public meetings and reviews. The company hopes to begin construction in mid-2028 and have the pipeline in operation by late 2029.¹⁶¹

Adrian Keller, Arizona program director for Solar United Neighbors, said that there is another way to supply electricity to growing businesses, even to the power-hungry data center industry. He said local solar energy is the “cheapest and fastest way to lower energy bills and meet Arizona’s rapidly growing energy demand.”¹⁶²



CHAPTER 8

Conclusion



With the huge surge in pipeline projects across the U.S., federal and state governments should be strengthening safety rules and environmental protections, not weakening them. Photo by EIP.

Conclusion

For this report, the Environmental Integrity Project reviewed thousands of public records and other documents to determine that at least 193 pipeline projects are either proposed or under construction across the U.S. The vast expansion of the nation's network of oil, petrochemical, and carbon pipelines — unprecedented since the hydraulic fracturing boom nearly two decades ago — is feeding a flood of new gas-fired power plants for data centers, as well as the growing liquefied natural gas export industry along the Gulf Coast.

To accelerate this rapid pipeline buildout, the White House has declared a baseless “energy emergency” to speed up permit approvals, reduce the scope and duration of environmental studies and reviews, and limit public participation in permitting. The Trump Administration is also weakening pipeline safety rules, offering pipeline operators waivers from the enforcement of safety violations, and proposing to narrow which wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act. This dramatic expansion of pipelines through local communities is driven by an administration actively working to undermine regulations meant to prevent explosions, leaks, and pollution at the same time.

Local residents — including in upstate New York, Louisiana, Arizona, and Tennessee — contend that the risks of pollution or accidents from these 17,000 new miles of pipelines are too great to justify an accelerated and abbreviated review process that prevents meaningful public participation in the decisionmaking process. While the construction of some pipelines may be necessary, major projects that pose a potential threat to public safety and clean water must be scrutinized carefully and thoroughly, with full transparency and adequate public hearings.

This report recommends:

- President Trump should rescind the sham “energy emergency” declaration and reserve the use of emergency authority for genuine emergency situations, which do not currently exist. The Trump Administration should restore standard environmental review and public participation processes for pipeline projects to ensure that these projects do not harm public health or the environment.
- Given the number and scale of proposed pipeline projects, PHMSA should tighten safety rules and increase inspections, enforcement, and funding for safety research, which is the opposite of the actions taken by the Trump Administration to date. Congress and the states should step in if the administration fails to act.
- The Trump Administration should respect states’ authority under the Clean Water Act and continue allowing states to fully evaluate and, where appropriate, deny certifications for pipeline projects that may violate state water quality standards.
- States and Congress should strengthen protections for wetlands threatened by pipelines and other developments, as the Trump Administration moves to weaken them. Wetlands are critical for flood prevention, clean water, bird and fish populations, and absorbing carbon dioxide to combat climate change.

Appendix A: Methodology

This report relied on information about pipeline projects that were proposed or under construction as of August 1, 2026. The data are available through the Environmental Integrity Project's Oil & Gas Watch database, a free public inventory of new and expanding oil, gas, and petrochemical projects in the U.S. Oil & Gas Watch tracks pipeline projects using a variety of sources, including public records from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The database also draws on company websites, fact sheets, press releases, investor presentations, and news reports.

The report excluded pipeline projects that were operating, partially operating, canceled, or on hold as of August 1, 2026. "On Hold" projects are stalled or delayed, sometimes due to a company waiting for more favorable conditions to move forward, legal challenges, or permitting delays. In some cases, permits may have expired or been withdrawn and the company has expressed intentions to move forward, but information is still limited, or there has been no public indication that the project has progressed over several years. The EIA's natural gas and liquids pipeline datasets may also designate a project as "on hold." See Appendix D for projects "on hold," or where information about a project's status is limited and "unknown."

Data on pipeline length, diameter, and capacity came from industry press, state and federal permit documents (primarily applications submitted to or authorizations issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Maritime Administration, where available), and the U.S. Energy Information Administration's natural gas and liquids pipelines datasets.¹⁶³ Capacity figures represent design capacity, or the maximum volume of gas, oil, or liquids that can be transported through a pipeline. Actual capacity or throughput usually differs from design capacity and may vary on a monthly basis, depending on operating conditions, temperature, season, downstream constraints, and maintenance work, among other factors.¹⁶⁴ Regional and project type definitions reflect those used by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.¹⁶⁵

Wetland Impacts

Data on wetlands impacts came from applications submitted to FERC or the Maritime Administration (MARAD), and draft or final environmental impact statements or environmental assessments, where available. For pipeline projects that are exempt from full review by FERC or MARAD under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – including intrastate gas pipelines and pipelines that transport liquids or carbon dioxide – wetlands data largely came from application materials and public notices submitted to or issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for Section 404 permits under the Clean Water Act, or by state agencies for Coastal Use Permits under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Where possible, wetland impacts only include impacts associated with the pipeline project and exclude those from aboveground infrastructure (like export terminals). Wetland impacts presented throughout this report reflect the sum of temporary impacts (or the acreage of wetlands that will be affected by construction) and permanent impacts (or the acreage of wetlands that will not be restored after construction is completed).

Projects with unknown wetland impacts were reviewed using Anthropic's Opus 5.5 model on October 5, 2026, to identify new information that became available after August 1, 2026. All information identified through the AI review was independently verified for accuracy and limited to the subset of projects for which wetland impacts remained unknown as of the data freeze date.

Energy Emergency

Data on pipeline projects that have referenced, requested, or received expedited or streamlined environmental reviews due to the "energy emergency" came from federal permit documents (for example, application documents

submitted to, or authorizations and public notices issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Maritime Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Bureau of Land Management), draft or final environmental impact statements or environmental assessments, company statements, press releases, investor presentations, industry trade press, as well as data EIP obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Freedom of Information Act.

EIP classified a pipeline project or corresponding permit as requesting or receiving expedited or streamlined review due to the asserted energy emergency if permit documents, federal agency records, or public statements included one or more of the following:

- Mention of Executive Orders 14154 (Unleashing American Energy), 14156 (Declaring a National Energy Emergency), or 14318 (Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure) in permit documents;
- Mention or explicit statement of utilization of emergency permitting procedures related to USACE 404 permits;
- Mention or explicit statement of utilization of emergency permitting procedures related to Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act;
- Mention or explicit statement of utilization of Section 60026 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act;
- Mention or explicit statement of utilization of special emergency permitting procedures under Section 303 of the Defense Production Act;
- Project benefitted from an environmental review that is shorter than the standard timeline (e.g., 28 day review instead of standard 2 years for Department of Interior projects requiring an Environmental Impact Statement);
- Public comment period associated with the permit for a given project was shorter than the standard comment period (e.g., 10 day comment period instead of standard 30 days for public notices for USACE 404 permits);
- Project was allowed to continue construction despite ongoing litigation under FERC Order 871; or
- Project was included on an internal list of EO 14156-related USACE wetland permits that EIP obtained through a Freedom of Information Act Request.

Pipeline Routes

Pipeline routes were digitized and compiled by the Environmental Integrity Project, Fracktracker Alliance, and Healthy Gulf from a variety of data sources. Where possible, routes were digitized from high-resolution (1:24,000 scale) topographic maps provided in permitting documents or downloaded from state permitting agency websites, like the Texas Railroad Commission. Route information was not available for all projects in this report. To access the pipeline route data featured in this report, along with the associated metadata for each project, please visit ArcGIS Online.¹⁶⁶ Route accuracy varies from pipeline to pipeline and may not be indicated for all pipelines.

Appendix B: List of Pipeline Projects

Click [here](#) for a detailed spreadsheet of all pipeline projects studied in this report

Appendix C: Top 10 Longest Proposed Gas Pipelines

State	Company	Pipeline Name	Pipeline Capacity (MMscf/d)	Pipeline Length (miles)
AK	Alaska Gasline Development Corporation	Alaska Nikiski LNG Pipeline	3,900	870
AZ, NM, TX	Energy Transfer LP	Desert Southwest Expansion	2,300	708
TX	WhiteWater Midstream, ONEOK, Inc., MPLX LP, Enbridge Inc.	Eiger Express Pipeline	3,700	610
TX	Targa Downstream LLC	Apex Pipeline	2,000	563
ND	WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.	Bakken East Pipeline	1,000	350
ND	Rainbow Energy Center, Intensity Infrastructure Partners	Rainbow Intensity Pipeline	1,530	344
AK	Donlin Gold, LLC	Donlin Gold Mine Pipeline	73	315
AL, GA, MS	Southern Natural Gas Company LLC	South System Expansion 4 (SSE4) Project	1,323	291
TX	Enbridge Inc., Rio Bravo Pipeline Company LLC	Rio Bravo Pipeline Project	4,500	274
TX	Mustang Express Pipeline, LLC, ARM Energy Holdings	Mustang Express Pipeline	2,500	236

Note: MMscf/d means millions of standard cubic feet per day.

Appendix D: List of Pipeline Projects on Hold or With Unknown Project Status

State	Company	Pipeline Name	Pipeline Type	Pipeline Capacity	Pipeline Length (miles)
LA, TX	Moss Lake Partners	DeLa Express Pipeline	Natural Gas	2,000 MMscf/d	809
MS	D'Lo Gas Storage, LLC	D'Lo Gas Storage Project	Natural Gas	1,250 MMscf/d	5
LA	West Delta LNG LLC	West Delta LNG Pipeline Project	Natural Gas	900 MMscf/d	20
MN, ND	WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.	Tioga to Emerson Project	Natural Gas	600 MMscf/d	330
NM	Double E Pipeline LLC	Red Hills Lateral Project	Natural Gas	600 MMscf/d	20
LA, TX	Florida Gas Transmission Company LLC	Southeast Texas Project	Natural Gas	150 MMscf/d	0
TX	Enterprise Products Operating LLC, SPOT Terminal Services LLC, Enbridge Inc.	Sea Port Oil Terminal (SPOT) Onshore & Offshore Pipelines	Oil	2,000,000 bpd	168
TX	Jupiter Brownsville, LLC	Jupiter Pipeline	Oil	1,000,000 bpd	650
OK, TX	Magellan Terminal Holdings, LP, Navigator Energy Services	Voyager Pipeline	Oil	250,000 bpd	500
TX	NuStar	New Burgos Pipeline	Oil	108,000 bpd	47
TX	TransMontaigne	Diamondback Brownsville Expansion Project	Oil	32,000 bpd	16
TX	Tenaska, Pineywoods CCS LLC	Pineywoods CO ₂ Pipeline	Carbon Dioxide	19 million metric tons/year	75
IA, IL	Wolf Carbon Solutions	Wolf CO ₂ Pipeline Mt. Simon Hub	Carbon Dioxide	11 million metric tons/year	280
IL	One Earth Sequestration LLC	One Earth Sequestration (OES) Pipeline	Carbon Dioxide	5 million metric tons/year	7

Note: MMscf/d means millions of standard cubic feet per day. bpd means barrels per day.

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