



## REGULATORY UPDATE

DOE Releases Natural Gas Infrastructure Implications of Increased Demand from the Electric Power Sector Study: earlier this month, the DOE issued a report entitled "Natural Gas Infrastructure Implications of Increased Demand from the Electric Power Sector." The report's key findings about the future of natural gas infrastructure include:

1. Diverse sources of natural gas supply and demand will reduce the need for additional interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure.
2. Higher utilization of existing interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure will reduce the need for new pipelines.
3. Incremental interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure needs in a future with an illustrative national carbon policy are projected to be modest relative to the Reference Case.
4. While there are constraints to siting new interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure, the projected pipeline capacity additions in this study are lower than past additions that have accommodated such constraints.

You can read the full study [here](#).

FERC Issues Congressional Budget Request for FY2016: on February 2, 2015, FERC submitted its Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request to Congress for \$319,800,000. This amount is just over a five percent increase above the agency's FY 2015 enacted appropriation. In requesting its budget, FERC sets out its three primary goals: (1) supporting just and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions; (2) promoting safe, reliable, secure and efficient infrastructure; and (3) mission support through organizational excellence. You can review the budget request [here](#).

FERC Releases Energy Infrastructure Update for December 2014: at the end of January, FERC Staff released its December 2014 Energy Infrastructure Update. In the month of December, two pipeline projects were placed into service, adding 193.4 MMcf/d of capacity. In addition, 8 pipelines were certificated and 9 were proposed. You can review the infrastructure update [here](#).

Administration Announces Actions to Cut Methane Emissions: on January 14, the White House released a fact sheet detailing a new goal to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40-45% from 2012 levels by 2015, and put forward a set of actions to achieve this goal. The fact sheet states that the EPA will initiate a rulemaking effort to set standards for methane and VOC emissions from new and modified oil and gas production sources, and natural gas processing and transmission sources. EPA will issue a proposed rule in the summer of 2015 and a final rule will follow in 2016. In developing these standards, EPA will work with industry, states, tribes, and other stakeholders to consider a range of common-sense approaches that can reduce emissions. You can review the fact sheet [here](#).

REMINDER: FERC to Hold National Overview Session on the EPA's Clean Power Plan

Implementation: FERC has announced dates for three regional technical conferences to address potential impacts of the U.S. EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan on electric reliability, wholesale electric markets and operations, and energy infrastructure, along with a National Overview session:

- National Overview session: February 19, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. (FERC headquarters)
- Western Region: February 25, 2015 (Denver, CO)
- Eastern Region: March 11, 2015 (Washington, DC)
- Central Region: March 31, 2015 (St. Louis, MO)

FERC also released an agenda for the February 19th National Overview session. You can view the agenda [here](#). FERC has requested that everyone interested in attending, either in person or via webinar, register for the conference by close of business February 13, 2015.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House Energy Committee Reveals Broad Energy Legislation: on February 9, the Republican leadership of the House Energy & Commerce Committee revealed plans to develop a comprehensive energy bill aimed at modernizing infrastructure, boosting the energy workforce, promoting energy diplomacy and efficiency, and clamping down on perceived regulatory overreach by the U.S. EPA. The committee is preparing a series of discussion drafts to address four key policy areas: modernizing infrastructure, a 21st century energy workforce, energy diplomacy, and efficiency and accountability. You can read about the Committee's plans [here](#).

## ON THE HORIZON

- PGC Meeting to Discuss Draft Reply Comments: Friday, February 13, 2015
- PGC Board and Membership Meetings: February 17-18, 2015
- Next Commission Meeting: February 19, 2015
- FERC Technical Conference (National Overview) on the EPA Clean Power Plan: February 19, 2015
- Natural Gas Council Meeting: February 18-19, 2015
- Policy Statement Reply Comment Deadline: February 26, 2015