SEC. 1. FERC PROCESS COORDINATION.

Section 15 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717n) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b)(2) to read as follows:

“(2) OTHER AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal and State agency considering an aspect of an application for Federal authorization shall cooperate with the Commission and comply with the deadlines established by the Commission.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION.—The Commission shall identify, as early as practicable after a Federal authorization is requested, any Federal or State agency, local government, or Indian tribe that may consider an aspect of an application for that Federal authorization.

“(C) INVITATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall invite any agency identified under subparagraph (B) to cooperate or participate in the review process.
“(ii) DEADLINE.—An invitation issued under clause (i) shall establish a deadline by which a response to the invitation shall be submitted, which may be extended by the Commission for good cause.”;

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) set deadlines for all such Federal authorizations; and’’;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) DEADLINE FOR FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS.—A final decision on a Federal authorization is due no later than 90 days after the Commission issues its final environmental document, unless a schedule is otherwise established by Federal law.
“(3) DEFERENCE TO COMMISSION.—When making a decision with respect to a Federal authorization, each Federal and State agency shall give deference, to the maximum extent allowed by law, to the scope of environmental review that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(4) CONCURRENT REVIEWS.—Each Federal and State agency considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization shall—

“(A) carry out the obligations of that agency under applicable law concurrently, and in conjunction, with the review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), unless doing so would impair the ability of the agency to conduct needed analysis or otherwise carry out those obligations;

“(B) formulate and implement administrative, policy, and procedural mechanisms to enable the agency to ensure completion of required Federal authorizations no later than 90 days after the Commission issues its final environmental document; and

“(C) transmit to the Commission a statement—
“(i) acknowledging receipt of the
schedule established under paragraph (1);
and
“(ii) setting forth the plan formulated
under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.
“(5) ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.—
“(A) IDENTIFICATION.—Federal and State
agencies considering an aspect of an application
for Federal authorization shall identify, as early
as possible, any issues of concern that may
delay or prevent an agency from granting such
authorization.
“(B) ISSUE RESOLUTION MEETING.—
“(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of a
cooperating agency or applicant, the Com-
mission shall convene an issue resolution
meeting with the relevant cooperating
agencies and the applicant to resolve any
issues that may—
“(I) delay completion of the envi-
ronmental review document; or
“(II) result in the denial of any
Federal authorization.
“(ii) MEETING DATE.—A meeting requested under this subparagraph shall be held not later than 21 days after the date on which the Commission receives the request for the meeting, unless the Commission determines that there is good cause to extend that deadline.

“(iii) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of a request for a meeting under this subparagraph, the Commission shall notify all relevant participating and cooperating agencies of the request, including the issue to be resolved and the date for the meeting.

“(C) ELEVATION OF ISSUE RESOLUTION.—
If resolution cannot be achieved within 30 days after a meeting under this subparagraph, the Commission shall forward the dispute to the heads of the relevant agencies (including, in the case of a failure by the State agency, the Federal agency overseeing the delegated authority) for resolution.

“(6) FAILURE TO MEET SCHEDULE.—If a Federal or State agency does not complete a proceeding for an approval that is required for a Federal au-
authorization in accordance with the schedule established by the Commission under paragraph (1)—

“(A) the applicant may pursue remedies under section 19(d); and

“(B) the head of the relevant Federal agency (including, in the case of a failure by a State agency, the Federal agency overseeing the delegated authority) shall notify Congress and the Commission of such failure and set forth an implementation plan to ensure completion.”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (f) through (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsections:

“(d) APPLICATION PROCESSING.—The Commission may allow an applicant seeking Federal authorization to fund a third party contractor or Commission staff to assist the Commission in reviewing the application.

“(e) ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY.—For applications requiring multiple Federal authorizations, the Commission, with input from any Federal or State agency considering an aspect of an application, shall track and make available to the public on the Commission’s website information related to the actions re-
quired to complete permitting, reviews, and other actions required. Such information shall include the following:

“(1) The schedule established by the Commission under subsection (c)(1).

“(2) A list of all the actions required by each applicable agency to complete permitting, reviews, and other actions necessary to obtain a final decision on the Federal authorization.

“(3) The expected completion date for each such action.

“(4) A point of contact at the agency accountable for each such action.

“(5) In the event that an action is still pending as of the expected date of completion, a brief explanation of the reasons for the delay.”.