

Expansion of the Energy Infrastructure: Oil & Gas Pipelines

The oil & gas pipeline infrastructure in the United States is responsible for providing nearly 64% of all energy needs to the country. The current infrastructure is nearing capacity, however, while energy demands are increasing and new markets expanding. It is becoming increasingly critical for the U.S. to build new pipeline infrastructure in order to meet the country's energy, defense and security needs.

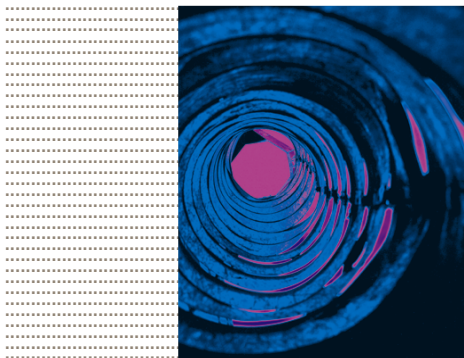
Hunton & Williams is one of the largest law firms in the world with a focus on energy law, and significant expertise in legal issues affecting the oil & gas pipeline industry. The attorneys in Hunton & Williams' Pipeline group are experienced with oil & gas pipeline law and practice, and with all levels of government regulation over the industry. Our pipeline expertise is grounded in many years of experience advising pipeline companies on complex regulatory, litigation and strategic issues.

Hunton & Williams is uniquely qualified to assist pipeline companies in assessing and implementing opportunities for infrastructure expansion. As illustrated in the attached chart [\[link\]](#), numerous legal issues are encountered in any new expansion project, ranging from financing; corporate structure and policy; NEPA; real estate acquisition and land use; regulatory and environmental permitting; FERC rate issues; arbitration and litigation. All of the attorneys listed on this *Energy Infrastructure Expansion: Oil & Gas Pipeline* practice description have experience working with these kind of issues as they affect oil & gas pipelines.

Projected Energy Demand. The Department of Energy projects that the demand for oil and natural gas in the United States will increase 33% by 2020, with an accompanying 1% increase for every 2% growth in GDP. According to the National Energy Policy Report (2001), over the next 20 years U.S. oil consumption will grow by more than 6 million barrels per day, and gas consumption alone will grow by more than 50%.

Current Pipeline Infrastructure. The legal landscape has changed dramatically since the last round of pipeline construction. Most of the existing pipeline infrastructure in the U.S. was constructed between the late 1940s and the early 1960s. Eminent domain was used extensively to secure the necessary right-of-way. It is generally accepted that eminent domain cannot be used as widely today, due to increased population, changes in land use patterns, and more complex legal and regulatory requirements.

The involvement of experienced outside counsel at the outset of any infrastructure expansion project can be invaluable to a company, by helping to identify potential issues early enough to either avoid them or resolve them as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. Hunton & Williams uses a multi-disciplinary approach in assisting pipeline companies when evaluating and implementing expansion projects, bringing expertise from multiple practice areas as appropriate, including Pipeline, Energy, Environment, Natural Gas, Project Development, Corporate, Real Estate, Government Relations, and Litigation. This approach tailors the expertise as necessary, and provides full service counsel in a coordinated and cost effective manner.



Expansion of the Energy Infrastructure: Oil & Gas Pipelines Contacts

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