

Constitution Pipeline

- **PROJECT TYPE:**
Gas pipeline
- **LOCATION:**
Beginning in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and ending in Schoharie County, New York
- **INVESTMENT COST:**
\$925 million
- **ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE:**
April 2014 → delayed over 4 years
- **ORIGINAL OPERATING DATE:**
March 2015

OVERVIEW

- In February 2012, a group of businesses announced a joint venture to build Constitution Pipeline in order to transport natural gas from the Marcellus Shale play eastward to key markets, providing critical utility infrastructure that would connect Northeast consumers with affordable supplies of natural gas.
- Shortly thereafter, an activist coalition called Stop the Pipeline organized an aggressive, multi-year campaign to oppose and attack the Constitution Pipeline. The group employed a wide range of tactics including protests, rallies, petitions, legal action, regulatory intervention, presentations, handouts and collateral.¹
 - » One flyer delivered to local landowners read: "We urge you to refuse to negotiate – just say NO to Constitution Pipeline Company."



Image from [Stop the Pipeline](#)

- In December 2014, after an extensive environmental review and consultation process, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted federal approval to construct the project. Shortly thereafter, Stop the Pipeline filed a request seeking rehearing and rescission of the FERC order.²
- In April 2016, after most of the pipeline's federal permits were approved and project developers had begun shipping pipeline components to the site route, the administration of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo rejected key state permits for the project, drawing cheers from KIITG activists.³
- In November 2016, Earthjustice appeared before the U.S. Court of Appeals to defend the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC's) denial of Constitution's water permit, representing Catskill Mountainkeeper, Riverkeeper, Inc. and Sierra Club.⁴
- Note: Since its inception in 2012, the Constitution Pipeline Community Grant Program awarded more than \$2 million to 159 organizations for noteworthy projects that directly benefit communities in the pipeline project area.

STATUS:

In response to New York's rejection of the pipeline, Constitution has pursued a lengthy series of legal and procedural appeals, most recently filing with the D.C. Circuit Court in July 2018.⁵ In November 2018, FERC granted another two-year extension for the project to enter service as its sponsors continue to exhaust all legal options to proceed.⁶

LOST OPPORTUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$3.9 ↓
BILLION**
in GDP impact*



23,426 ↓
total full-time
equivalent job years*



**\$930 ↓
MILLION**
in lost tax
revenue*



**\$13.5 ↓
MILLION**
annually in tax
revenue during
operations**

* Number refers to total economic impact from construction/operation/upstream, through August 2018. Lost tax revenue estimate includes \$226 million during the construction phase, \$47 million during 3.5 years of lost operations, and \$654 million from reduced upstream operations.

** Self-reported by project sponsor

Sources:
Global Energy Institute analysis
[Constitution Pipeline - Economic Analysis](#)

1. [Stop the Pipeline website](#)
2. [Request for Rehearing of Stop the Pipeline](#), FERC filing, 1/2/15
3. [New York State denies permit to Constitution Pipeline, halting construction](#), StateImpact PA, 4/22/16
4. [Earthjustice to Defend New York State's Rejection of the Constitution Pipeline Project in Oral Argument](#), Earthjustice press release, 11/16/16
5. [Constitution Pipeline to file new appeal with federal court](#), Kallanish Energy, 7/23/18
6. [Constitution Pipeline Granted Two-Year Extension by FERC](#), Natural Gas Intelligence, 11/6/18