

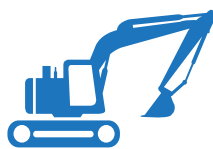
Northern Access Pipeline

- PROJECT TYPE:**
 Natural gas pipeline and associated facilities
- LOCATION:**
 Beginning in Sergeant Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania, and ending in the Town of Elma, Erie County, New York
- INVESTMENT COST:**
 \$455 million
- ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE:**
 Est. construction period of one year
- ORIGINAL OPERATING DATE:**
 11/1/16 (revised multiple times and now listed as late 2019) → delayed over 2 years

LOST OPPORTUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$1.6 ↓
BILLION**
in GDP impact*



10,113 ↓
total full-time
equivalent job
years*



**\$400 ↓
MILLION**
in lost tax revenue*

OVERVIEW

- After a 31-month review process, FERC approved National Fuel's application to construct the pipeline in February 2017, finding that the proposed project would have "no negative environmental impact."¹
- The Allegheny Defense Project and Sierra Club filed a request for rehearing of FERC's February 2017 order in addition to a request for stay of construction, which FERC rejected in August 2017, reaffirming its stance that the proposed pipeline "is an environmentally acceptable action."²
- Three months later, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) rejected National Fuel's water permit in April 2017.³



Image from Sierra Club Niagara Group

- Environmental groups, such as the NRDC⁴ and Sierra Club,⁵ who protested the proposed project for years, credit themselves for influencing the NYSDEC's decision.
- National Fuel filed a petition for review with the U.S. Court of Appeal in April 2017 asking the federal court to vacate the NYSDEC's rejection of its water permit, which the appeals court rejected.
- National Fuel also filed a request for rehearing of FERC's February 2017 order requesting the Commission clarify that it does not need approval from the NYSDEC to begin construction and that NYSDEC failed to act on its application within a reasonable period of time,⁶ which currently remains pending before FERC.
- In August 2018, FERC rejected a request by New York's Department of Environmental Quality to deny water quality permits for the project, citing the agency's failure to act on Northern Access' water quality certificate application within one year, as obligated.⁷

STATUS:

In November 2018, a New York state appellate court ruled to restrict National Fuel's eminent domain authority based on DEC's water permit rejection, ignoring FERC's prior order overruling the DEC's denial because the state exceeded the maximum time allotted to make a permit decision. Further legal actions are anticipated.⁸

* Number refers to total economic impact from construction/operations/upstream, through August 2018

Sources:
 Global Energy Institute analysis
[Northern Access 2016 fact sheet](#)
[National Fuel 2017 press release](#)

- [Northern Access Project: Exporting PA's Marcellus Gas Northward](#), Fracktracker Alliance blog, 2/16/17
- [Order Denying Stay](#), FERC filing, 8/31/17
- [New York State Executive Branch Agency Denies Permits for National Fuel's Northern Access Pipeline Project](#), National Fuel press release, 4/10/17
- [Gov. Cuomo Blocks Northern Access Pipeline](#), NRDC blog, 4/9/17
- [NO NORTHERN ACCESS 2016 PIPELINE](#), Sierra Club Niagara Group website
- [National Fuel Asks FERC to Clarify NYSDEC Role For Northern Access Project](#), *Natural Gas Intelligence*, 3/8/17
- [FERC overrules New York permit denial for Millennium gas pipeline](#), *Utility Dive*, 9/18/17
- [Hold-out landowners get court victory against pipeline](#), *WIVB 4*, 11/26/18