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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 953 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, SCAVELLO, WHITE, BREWSTER AND AUMENT,  
JULY 16, 2015

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JULY 16, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Expanding the natural gas infrastructure throughout this  
2 Commonwealth through competitive sealed bidding; and  
3 providing for powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Public  
4 Utility Commission.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Natural Gas  
9 Infrastructure Expansion and Access Act.

10 Section 2. Findings.

11 The General Assembly finds that:

12 (1) This Commonwealth is fortunate to have one of the  
13 most abundant and diverse mineral resource fields in the  
14 world, including the Marcellus Shale natural gas reserves.

15 (2) Marcellus Shale offers tremendous economic and  
16 energy independence opportunities for this Commonwealth.

17 (3) The responsible development of natural gas resources  
18 will position this Commonwealth in the global marketplace as  
19 a world leader in energy supply and reduce our dependence on

1 foreign oil.

2 (4) Expanding access to natural gas throughout this  
3 Commonwealth will enable more residents and businesses to  
4 benefit from this abundant, clean, low-cost domestic energy  
5 source.

6 Section 3. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
8 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

11 "Competitive sealed bidding." The process specified in 62  
12 Pa.C.S. § 512 (relating to competitive sealed bidding).

13 "Distribution system." A system owned and operated by a  
14 natural gas distribution utility.

15 "Expansion project." Modification to an existing pipeline,  
16 main extension or service line to one or more residential,  
17 commercial or industrial entities not receiving natural gas  
18 service within an existing certificated service area.

19 "Extension project." New construction of a service line,  
20 main extension or pipeline to provide natural gas service to one  
21 or more residential, commercial or industrial entities not  
22 receiving natural gas service and for which a certificate of  
23 public convenience is required under 66 Pa.C.S. § 1102 (relating  
24 to enumeration of acts requiring certificate) that is not within  
25 the current certificate of public convenience territory issued  
26 by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to the natural gas  
27 distribution utility.

28 "Natural gas distribution utility." As defined in 66 Pa.C.S.  
29 § 1403 (relating to definitions).

30 Section 4. Identification and designation of corridors.

1 (a) Identify and designate.--Within six months after the  
2 effective date of this section, the commission shall identify  
3 and designate corridors throughout this Commonwealth for  
4 construction of natural gas infrastructure extension and  
5 expansion projects to unserved or underserved areas.

6 (b) Publish corridors for bidding.--The commission shall  
7 publish as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin a listing of  
8 corridors and specifications by which a person, company or  
9 natural gas distribution utility may make a competitive sealed  
10 bid for one or more of the corridors. The commission shall  
11 follow any requirements under 62 Pa.C.S. § 512 (relating to  
12 competitive sealed bidding).

13 Section 5. Construction of natural gas infrastructure.

14 (a) Construction.--The person, company or natural gas  
15 distribution utility awarded the bid must construct in the  
16 corridor a natural gas infrastructure extension or expansion  
17 project.

18 (b) Exclusive rights.--The person, company or natural gas  
19 distribution utility awarded the bid shall have the exclusive  
20 right in the corridor as it relates to the natural gas pipeline  
21 and any potential customers that may be served by the pipeline.

22 (c) Existing gas lines.--The person, company or natural  
23 gas distribution utility awarded the bid shall have the ability  
24 to tap into an existing natural gas pipeline for a fee to be  
25 regulated and determined by the commission.

26 Section 6. Commission.

27 (a) Powers, duties and regulations.--The commission shall  
28 promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act.  
29 The regulations shall cover any fees or prices as it relates to  
30 the natural gas infrastructure project, including, but not

1 limited to, customer connection fees and the laying of pipes.

2 (b) Reporting.--The commission shall require a filing of  
3 information by the person, company or natural gas distribution  
4 utility awarded the bid to ensure full compliance with this act.

5 Section 7. Deposit of revenue.

6 Any revenue raised from the bidding of corridors shall be  
7 deposited into the General Fund.

8 Section 8. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect immediately.