

# SSE4 FERC talking points

September 2025

## Pipeline facts

- Pipeline construction and infrastructure upgrades would impact [33 counties](#) across Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi.
- The proposal includes 14 new segments totaling nearly 300 miles of additional pipe.
- 14 compressor stations would see new compression and/or horsepower upgrades, increasing emissions of pollutants that could threaten the health of people nearby.
- New pipes would cross 11 rivers and more than 100 sub watersheds.
- Southern Natural Gas Company, owned by Southern Company and Kinder Morgan, and Elba Express Company, owned by Kinder Morgan, are behind the project.

## This pipeline will raise bills

- This pipeline's estimated \$3.5 billion dollar price tag would be paid for by customers of Dominion Energy, Southern Company, Oglethorpe Power's 38 EMCs, and Atlanta Gas Light (a Southern Company subsidiary), among others.
- Customers—not utility shareholders—are on the hook if the price of fuel – like methane gas—spikes. Here in the South, customers cannot choose their energy utility.
- For example, in 2023 there was a \$2 million spike in methane gas and coal costs that resulted in the average residential Georgia Power customer paying an extra [\\$16 a month](#).

## This pipeline threatens our most vulnerable neighbors

- The pipeline would come within three miles of at least 81 schools, 3 hospitals and hundreds of residents in Georgia alone.
- Once authorized, pipeline companies can use eminent domain to forcibly take private property where pipes will be buried.
- Methane is combustible and dangerous. Gas leaks can release dangerous and cancer-causing pollutants and have a history of causing devastating explosions, including along the proposed route of this project.
- Gas infrastructure, including pipes and compressor stations, leak [much more pollution](#) than previous EPA estimates.

## Our waterways are at risk

- The pipeline would have to cross 11 rivers, over 100 sub-watersheds, and over 1,000 waterbodies in Alabama and Georgia alone. Construction methods vary, but all pose various risks including digging under, or damming and digging into riverbeds.
- Construction of pipes through waterways threatens fish and other aquatic wildlife that keep our rivers clean and safe.

## This would be a fossil fuel superhighway for monopoly utilities

- This pipeline will deepen our reliance on dirty fossil fuels for decades.
- Methane gas (called “natural” by the industry) is a dirty, expensive, climate-warming fossil fuel.
- Burning methane gas at power plants releases climate-warming carbon dioxide and dangerous volatile organic compounds, like formaldehyde, that can cause cancer and respiratory problems in nearby communities.

- While utilities claim they must burn more fossil fuels to meet the needs of data centers swarming to the South, experts have found that companies are asking for (and utility commissions are granting) far more energy capacity than they actually need.
- Much of projected data center demand is speculative — if not outright [implausible](#).
- Southern Natural Gas and the utilities this pipeline would serve have not clearly demonstrated this substantial amount of additional capacity is necessary or that cleaner, more affordable alternatives were fully considered

#### **We need cleaner, safer, less expensive options**

- Utilities across the South underutilize modern, clean, cost-effective options like solar and energy-reducing programs that would lower demand.
- Depending on old fossil fuel technologies, like methane gas, leaves us open to enormous, painful spikes on our utility bills.
- Methane gas is a greenhouse gas that has 80 times more warming power than carbon dioxide during its first twenty years in the atmosphere.
- Deepening our reliance on climate warming fossil fuels, like methane gas, is worsening impacts of human-made climate change, including stronger storms and increase flood risk.

#### **Facts about the FERC proceeding**

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, methane gas, and oil, including interstate methane gas pipelines.
- Before construction can begin on a methane gas pipeline, an application must be reviewed and approved by FERC.
- Before approval, FERC is required to review and assess the environmental impacts of the pipeline.
- The companies are asking FERC to approve the project by July 1, 2026.