**§4517. Private natural gas pipelines**

**1. Definitions.**  As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Affiliated compression or liquefaction facility" means a facility that is used to liquefy or compress natural gas for sale or distribution to others by means other than a pipeline and that is owned or operated by an affiliate of the owner of a private natural gas pipeline. [PL 2011, c. 592, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Private natural gas pipeline" means a pipeline that is used solely for the transport of natural gas to a single customer and is owned by the customer and whose owner or operator is not otherwise regulated by the commission as a natural gas pipeline utility or gas utility. For purposes of this paragraph, "customer" includes an affiliate of a customer. [PL 2011, c. 592, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 592, §1 (RPR).]

**2. Safety regulation.**  The commission may exercise safety regulation over an entity that owns or operates a private natural gas pipeline on public land or land owned by a 3rd party, notwithstanding that the entity is not a public utility. The commission may exercise safety regulation over the owner or operator of an affiliated compression or liquefaction facility, notwithstanding that the owner or operator is not a public utility. Safety regulation under this subsection may be enforced as provided in sections 4515 and 4516‑A.

[PL 2011, c. 592, §2 (AMD).]

**3. Approval of construction.**  A private natural gas pipeline or affiliated compression or liquefaction facility may not be constructed without approval of the commission. When requesting approval, the entity that owns or operates a private natural gas pipeline or affiliated compression or liquefaction facility shall submit to the commission information concerning the engineering design of the pipeline or affiliated compression or liquefaction facility and the standards of construction the entity proposes to follow and any other information the commission determines necessary to make a determination of whether to approve construction. The commission shall approve the construction if the commission determines that the standards of construction of the pipeline or affiliated compression or liquefaction facility adequately protect the safety of the public.

[PL 2011, c. 592, §2 (AMD).]

**4. Waiver.**  The commission may waive for good cause any requirements under this section.

[PL 2011, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

**5. Sale by affiliate of liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas.**  The owner or operator of a private natural gas pipeline that delivers natural gas to its affiliate that then liquefies or compresses the natural gas for sale or distribution to others by means other than by a pipeline is not, as a result of the delivery, considered a public utility. The owner or operator of an affiliated compression or liquefaction facility is not considered a public utility if the owner or operator is not otherwise regulated by the commission as a public utility.

[PL 2011, c. 592, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 110, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 592, §§1-3 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024
 . The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.