

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission

[Docket No. CP09-57-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line
Company, LLC; Notice of Availability
of the Environmental Assessment for
the Proposed 85 North Expansion
Project

June 26, 2009.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) in the above-referenced docket.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the 85 North Expansion Project. Transco proposes to construct three new 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline loops with a combined total length of approximately 22.06 miles adjacent to its existing pipeline system in Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Transco also proposes to construct one new compressor station and modify eight existing compressor stations in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The facilities that would be constructed are as follows:

- Modify Compressor Station 80 in Jones County, Mississippi, and Compressor Station 90 in Marengo County, Alabama;
- Add additional compression at Compressor Station 100 in Chilton County, Alabama;
- Construct new Compressor Station 135 in Anderson County, South Carolina;
- Modify Compressor Station 110 in Randolph County, Alabama; Compressor Station 115 in Coweta County, Georgia; Compressor Station 125 in Walton County, Georgia; Compressor Station 150 in Iredell County, North Carolina; and Compressor Station 155 in Davidson County, North Carolina;
- Install Coosa Loop, an approximately 4.40 mile segment of 42-

inch diameter natural gas pipeline, in Coosa County, Alabama;

- Install Cowpens Loop, an approximately 9.39 mile segment of 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, South Carolina; and

- Install Iredell Loop, an approximately 8.27 mile segment of 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, in Iredell and Rowan Counties, North Carolina.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 502-8371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, State, and local agencies; public interest groups; interested individuals; newspapers and libraries in the project area; Native America groups; and parties to this proceeding. Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below.

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the 85 North Expansion Project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before July 31, 2009.

For your convenience, there are three methods in which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket number CP09-57-000 with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has dedicated eFiling expert staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the *Quick Comment* feature, which is located on the Commission's internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to *Documents and Filings*. A Quick Comment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project;

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is located on the

Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> under the link to *Documents and Filings*. *eFiling* involves preparing your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper, and then saving the file on your computer's hard drive. You will attach that file as your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking "Sign up" or "eRegister." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing;" or

(3) You may file your comments via mail to the Commission by sending an original and two copies of your letter to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Gas Branch 3, PJ-11.3.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at 1-866-208-FERC or on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries and direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to the eSubscription link on the FERC Internet Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm>).

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP09-428-000]

Blue Sky Gas Storage, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Blue Sky Gas Storage Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

June 26, 2009.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Blue Sky Gas Storage Project involving the construction and operation of facilities by Blue Sky Gas Storage, LLC (Blue Sky) in Logan County, Colorado. The Blue Sky Gas Storage Project involves the conversion of a depleted natural gas storage reservoir to a natural gas storage facility. This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process we will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the project. Your input will help determine which issues need to be evaluated in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on July 27, 2009.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project, which includes affected landowners; Federal, State, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; parties to this proceeding; and local libraries and newspapers. State and local government representatives are asked to notify their constituents of this

proposed project and to encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with State law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" was attached to the project notice Blue Sky provided to landowners. This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is available for viewing on the FERC Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

Summary of the Proposed Project

Blue Sky proposes to convert a depleted underground natural gas production reservoir to a natural gas storage facility located approximately 16 miles north of the town of Sterling, in Logan County, Colorado. Blue Sky also proposes to construct 5.3 miles of 16-inch-diameter header pipeline extending north from the storage facility to interconnect with Rockies Express Pipeline, LLC, and Trailblazer Pipeline, LLC's interstate pipeline systems. In addition, Blue Sky proposes to construct 9.8 miles of 16-inch-diameter header pipeline extending southwest to interconnect with Kinder Morgan Interstate Gas Transmission, LLC's interstate pipeline system. Blue Sky would construct one metering station at each of the two proposed interconnections. The Blue Sky Storage Project would have a working gas storage capacity of approximately 4.4 billion cubic feet and be capable of delivering gas at a rate of approximately 100 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d).

Activities at the storage facility would include:

- Drilling 10 new natural gas storage wells;
- Converting one existing well to a water disposal well;
- Converting two abandoned wells to observation wells;
- Re-entering 18 abandoned exploration and production wells to

confirm proper plugging and abandonment; and

- One 2,370 horsepower compressor station.

High West Energy would construct and operate a non-jurisdictional electrical distribution line upgrade and extension. To service the Blue Sky facilities, a one mile new section of new electrical distribution line would be built eastward of the existing electrical distribution line across County Road 33 into the Blue Sky facility.

Maps showing the location of the proposed project are included as appendix 1.¹

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed storage facility would occupy a subsurface area of about 2,757 acres. Construction of the proposed facilities would temporarily disturb a total of 263.7 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, about 36.1 acres would be maintained for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and allowed to revert to former uses.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission staff requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA, we² will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- Land use;

¹ The appendix referenced in this notice is not being printed in the *Federal Register*. Copies of the appendix are available on the Commission's website at the "eLibrary" link or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the "Additional Information" section of this notice. Copies of the appendix were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail. Requests for detailed maps of the proposed facilities should be made directly to Blue Sky.

² "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.