

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
Entrega Gas Pipeline Inc.
Docket Nos. CP04-413-000, et al.
BLM Reference No. WYW-158830

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The environmental staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the interstate natural gas pipeline transmission facilities proposed by Entrega Gas Pipeline Inc. (Entrega) in the above-referenced dockets.

This final EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Its purpose is to inform the Commission, the public, and other permitting agencies about the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and its alternatives, and to recommend practical, reasonable, and appropriate mitigation measures which would avoid or reduce any significant adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable and, where feasible, to less than significant levels. The final EIS concluded that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this final EIS because the project would cross federal lands under BLM administration in Wyoming and Colorado. The final EIS will be used by the BLM to consider the issuance of a right-of-way (ROW) grant for the portion of the project on federal lands. While the conclusions and recommendations presented in this final EIS were developed with input from the BLM as a cooperating agency, the BLM will present its own conclusions and recommendations in its Record of Decision for the project.

Proposed Project

The Entrega Pipeline Project involves the construction and operation of a new interstate natural gas pipeline system that would extend between a proposed Meeker Hub in Rio Blanco County, Colorado, Wamsutter, in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, and the Cheyenne Hub in Weld County, Colorado. The final EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Colorado and Wyoming:

- about 328.1 miles of new pipeline of 36- and 42-inch-diameter pipeline –
 - 136.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline, with 86.1 miles in Colorado (Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties) and 50.2 miles in Wyoming (Sweetwater County); and

- 191.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline, with 183.1 miles in Wyoming (Sweetwater, Carbon, Albany, and Laramie Counties) and 8.7 miles in Colorado (Larimer and Weld Counties);
- three new compressor stations (the Meeker Hub and Bighole Compressor Stations in Colorado, the Wamsutter Compressor Station in Wyoming);
- seven meter stations at interconnections with other pipeline systems (three associated with the new compressor stations, one of which would be constructed by Wyoming Interstate Company), four at the new Cheyenne Hub Metering Station in Wyoming;
- four pig launchers and four pig receivers (six associated with compressor and metering stations, one launcher and one receiver at the new Arlington Pigging Station in Wyoming);
- 22 mainline valves (5 valves at compressor and metering stations, 17 valves along the pipeline ROW); and
- other associated facilities, such as access roads and powerlines.

The proposed project would be capable of transporting up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day (Bcf/d) from the Meeker Hub Compressor Station to interconnections at:

- Wamsutter, Wyoming with the Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) and Wyoming Interstate Company transmission systems that serve markets east and west of Wamsutter; and
- the Cheyenne Hub (Weld County, Colorado) with CIG, Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline Company, Trailblazer Pipeline Company, and Public Service Company of Colorado. These systems would transport gas to markets in the Midwest and Central U.S. and the Eastern Slope south of the Cheyenne Hub.

The purpose of the Entrega Pipeline Project is to transport natural gas from supply basins in the central Rocky Mountains to interstate pipelines at Wamsutter and the Cheyenne Hub. From these points, the gas could be transported to markets in the West, the Midwest, or the Central United States, depending on the delivery location specified by the shipper. The need for the project arises from the current and projected increase of natural gas production in the Rocky Mountain region, which is occurring without a concurrent increase in pipeline capacity to transport this gas out from the production basins and into the interstate pipeline network.

The final EIS will be used in the regulatory decision-making process at the FERC, and may be presented as evidentiary material in formal hearings at the FERC. While the period for filing interventions in this case has expired, motions to intervene out of time can be filed with the FERC in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 385.214(d). Further, anyone desiring to file a protest with the FERC should do so in accordance with 18 CFR 385.211.

The final EIS has been placed in the public files of the FERC and is available for distribution and public inspection at:

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street, NE, Room 2A
Washington, D.C. 20426
(202) 502-8371**

Copies also are available for reading at the following locations:

BLM Field Office	Address	City/State	Zip Code
Colorado State Office	2850 Youngfield Street	Lakewood, CO	80215
White River Field Office	73544 Hwy 64	Meeker, CO	81641
Little Snake Field Office	455 Emerson Street	Craig, CO	81625
Rawlins Field Office	1300 N. Third	Rawlins, WY	82301
Wyoming State Office	P.O. Box 1828	Cheyenne, WY	82003
Library	Address	City/State	Zip Code
Albany County Library	310 South 8th Street	Laramie, WY	82070
Bairoil Branch Library	P.O. Box 40	Bairoil, WY	82322
Burns Branch Library	P.O. Box 220	Burns, WY	82053
Carbon County Library	215 West Buffalo Street	Rawlins, WY	82301
Centennial Branch Library	P.O. Box 188	Centennial, WY	82055
Cheyenne Library	2800 Central Avenue	Cheyenne, WY	82001
Colorado State University	50 University Avenue	Fort Collins, CO	80526
Morgan Library			
Craig Library	570 Green Street	Craig, CO	81625
DeBeque Library	730 Minter Avenue	DeBeque, CO	81630
Elk Mountain Branch Library	P.O. Box 156	Elk Mountain, WY	82324
Encampment Branch Library	P.O. Box 495	Encampment, WY	82325
Glenwood Springs Branch	413 9th St.	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601
Greeley Library	1939 61st Avenue	Greeley, CO	80634
Hanna Library	P.O. Box 297	Hanna, WY	82327
Laramie Library	310 S. 8th Street	Laramie, WY	82070
Library	Address	City/State	Zip Code
Little Snake River Valley	105 2nd Street	Baggs, WY	82321
Medicine Bow Branch Library	P.O. Box 279	Medicine Bow, WY	82329
Meeker Library	200 Main Street	Meeker, CO	81641
Parachute Branch Library	244 Grand Valley Way	Parachute, CO	81635
Pine Bluffs Branch Library	P.O. Box 639	Pine Bluffs, WY	82082
Rangley Library	109 East Main Street	Rangley, CO	81641
Rifle Branch Library	107 East 2 nd	Rifle, CO	81650
Rock River Branch Library	P.O. Box 213	Rock River, WY	82083
Rock Springs Library	400 C Street	Rock Springs, WY	82901
Saratoga Branch Library	P.O. Box 27	Saratoga, WY	82331
Sinclair Branch Library	P.O. Box 8	Sinclair, WY	82334
Sweetwater County Library	300 N. 1st East Street	Green River, WY	82935
University of Wyoming	1000 East University Avenue	Laramie, WY	82071
Utah State University Library	300 Old Main Hill	Logan, UT	84322
Wamsutter Library	230 Tierney	Wamsutter, WY	82336
Western Wyoming Community College Library	2500 College Drive	Rock Springs, WY	82902
White Mountain Library	2935 Sweetwater Drive	Rock Springs, WY	82901

A limited number of copies are available from the FERC's Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, copies of the final EIS have been mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who have requested the draft EIS; libraries and newspapers in the project area; and parties to this proceeding.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the Federal Register. However, the CEQ regulations provide an exception to this rule when an agency decision is subject to a formal internal appeal process which allows other agencies or the public to make their views known. In such cases, the agency decision may be made at the same time the notice of the final EIS is published by the EPA, allowing both periods to run concurrently. The Commission's decision for this proposed action is subject to a 30-day rehearing period.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **1-866-208-FERC** or on the FERC Internet website (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 (CP04-413) 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 on the FERC internet website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Information concerning the involvement of the BLM is available from Tom Hurshman, BLM Project Manager, at (970) 240-5345.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary