

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd.
Docket No. CP05-54-000
BLM Reference No. WYW-160264

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 Wyoming Interstate Company, Ltd. (WIC) in the above-referenced docket.

This final EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. 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 Piceance Basin Expansion Project (Piceance 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 concludes that 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.

The Piceance Project involves the construction and operation of a new interstate natural gas pipeline system that would extend between the existing Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) Greasewood Compressor Station in Rio Blanco County, Colorado, and the existing CIG Wamsutter Compressor Station in Sweetwater County, Wyoming.¹ The final EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Colorado and Wyoming:

¹ Both WIC and CIG are affiliates owned by El Paso Corporation.

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- about 141.8 miles of 24-inch-diameter new pipeline with 89.9 miles located in Colorado (Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties) and 51.9 miles located in Wyoming (Sweetwater County);
- additional compression to be installed at the existing CIG Greasewood Compressor Station in Colorado;
- four metering stations at interconnections with other pipeline systems (two associated with the CIG Greasewood Compressor Station, two at the CIG Wamsutter Compressor Station);
- three pigging facilities (one associated with each compressor station and a new facility at milepost 54.0 near County Road 4 in Moffat County, Colorado);
- nine mainline valves (one valve at each of the two existing compressor stations and seven valves along the pipeline ROW); and
- other associated facilities, such as access roads and communication towers.

The proposed project would be capable of transporting up to 350,000 dekatherms of natural gas per day (Dthd) from the CIG Greasewood Compressor Station to interconnections at Wamsutter, Wyoming with the CIG and WIC interstate transmission pipeline systems that serve markets east and west of Wamsutter.

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

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

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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
Little Snake Field Office	455 Emerson Street	Craig, CO	81625
Rawlins Field Office	1300 N. Third	Rawlins, WY	82301
White River Field Office	73544 Hwy 64	Meeker, CO	81641
Wyoming State Office	P.O. Box 1828	Cheyenne, WY	82003
Library	Address	City/State	Zip Code
BLM Library	RS 150A, Bldg. 50 DFC	Denver, CO	80225-0047
Craig Library	570 Green Street	Craig, CO	81625
DeBeque Library	730 Minter Avenue	DeBeque, CO	81630
Glenwood Springs Branch Library	413 9th Street	Glenwood Springs, CO	81601-3607
Hay Library	Western Wyoming Community College, 2500 College Drive	Rock Springs, WY	82902
Meeker Library	200 Main Street	Meeker, CO	81641
Merrill Library	Utah State University	Logan, UT	84322-3000
Morgan Library	Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO	80526
Parachute Branch Library	244 Grand Valley Way	Parachute, CO	81635
Rangely Library	109 East Main Street	Rangely, CO	81641
Rifle Branch Library	107 East 2 nd	Rifle, CO	81650
Rock Springs Library	400 C Street	Rock Springs, WY	82901
Saratoga Branch Library	P.O. Box 27	Saratoga, WY	82331
Sweetwater County Library	300 N. 1st East Street	Green River, WY	82935
University of Wyoming	1000 East University Avenue	Laramie, WY	82071
Wamsutter Library	230 Tierney	Wamsutter, WY	82336
White Mountain Library	2935 Sweetwater Drive	Rock Springs, WY	82901

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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; libraries; newspapers; and parties to this proceeding.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, no agency decision on a proposed action may be made until 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability of a final EIS. 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, allowing both periods to run concurrently. The Commission 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 (CP05-54) 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