

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 2
Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP
Docket No. CP06-446-000

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP (Gulf South) under the above-referenced docket. Gulf South's East Texas to Mississippi Expansion Project (Project) would be located in various counties and parishes in eastern Texas, northern Louisiana, and western Mississippi.

This Draft EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The FERC staff concludes that the proposed Project, with the appropriate mitigation measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) are federal cooperating agencies for the development of this EIS. A federal cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved with the proposal and is involved in the NEPA analysis.

The general purpose of the proposed Project is to transport up to 1.7 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from production fields in eastern Texas to markets in the Gulf coast, Midwestern, Northeastern and Southeastern regions of the United States.

The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- approximately 240.0 miles of 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline extending easterly from DeSoto Parish, Louisiana to Simpson County, Mississippi;
- approximately 3.3 miles of 36-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline extending northward from Gulf South's existing Carthage Junction Compressor Station in Panola County, Texas to interconnects with existing natural gas facilities within Panola County;
- two new compressor stations, the Vixen and the Tallulah Compressor Stations, located in Ouachita and Madison Parishes, Louisiana, respectively;
- modifications to three existing compressor stations, the Carthage Junction, Hall Summit, and McComb Compressor Stations in Panola, County, Texas, Bienville Parish, Louisiana and Walthall County, Mississippi, respectively; and
- other ancillary facilities including six meter and regulator (M/R) facilities, eleven mainline valves, nine side valves, and six pig launcher and/or receiver facilities.

Project construction would be initiated in May 2007 and completed by September 2007, at which point Gulf South would place the proposed Project in-service.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIS may do so. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded so that they may be considered in the Final EIS, **please carefully follow these instructions:**

- Send **an original and two** copies of your letter to:

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

- Label one copy of your comments to the attention of Gas Branch 2, DG2E; and Reference Docket No. CP06-446-000 on the original and both copies
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before **March 27, 2007**.

Please note that the Commission strongly encourages the electronic filing (“eFiling”) of comments. Instructions on how to “eFile” comments can be found on the Commission's web site at www.ferc.gov under the “Documents and Filings” link.

In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, we invite you to attend the public comment meetings the FERC will conduct in the project area to receive comments on the Draft EIS. **All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)**, and are scheduled as follows:

Date and Time	Location
Monday, February 26, 6:00 pm	Minden American Legion Hall 119 Pine Street Minden, LA 71055 (318) 371-3045
Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 pm	Ouachita Parish Public Library – Main Branch 1800 Stubbs Avenue Monroe, LA 71201 (318) 327-1490
Thursday, March 1, 6:00 pm	Vicksburg Convention Center Room 4 1600 Mulberry Street Vicksburg, MS 39180 (866) 822-6338

The public comment meetings will be posted on the FERC’s calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx. Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the Draft EIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After the comments received are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be published and distributed by the FERC staff. The Final EIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments received on the Draft EIS.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator 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). Anyone may intervene in this proceeding based on this Draft EIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above.¹ **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

The Draft 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 N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

A limited number of copies of the Draft EIS are available from the Public Reference Room identified above. In addition, CD copies of the Draft EIS have been mailed to affected landowners; various federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; local libraries and newspapers; intervenors; and other individuals that expressed an interest in the proposed Project. Hard-copies of the Draft EIS have also been mailed to those who requested that format during the scoping period for the proposed Project.

To reduce printing and mailing costs for the Final EIS, the FERC will be issuing that document in both CD and hard-copy formats. In a separate mailing, the parties on the current mailing list for the Draft EIS will be sent a postcard providing an opportunity to select the format of the Final EIS that they wish to receive.

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).

To access information via the FERC website click on the "eLibrary" link then 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. The "eLibrary" link provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. For assistance with "eLibrary", please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202)502-8659.

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

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which 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 these documents. To learn more about eSubscription and to sign-up for this service please go to www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary