

**APPENDIX E**

**EXOTIC AND INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PLAN**



## **Fayetteville/Greenville Lateral Expansion Project**

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# Exotic and Invasive Species Control Plan

## Fayetteville/Greenville Lateral Expansion Project Texas Gas Transmission, LLC

Texas Gas Transmission, LLC has developed an exotic and invasive species control plan for the Fayetteville/Greenville Lateral Expansion Project. The following species include those that have been designated to have the potential to occur along the pipeline project.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Form	Typical Habitat
Cogon grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Erect grass	Upland areas
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Floating aquatic	Aquatic
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Erect grass	Upland to mesic

Because a pipeline project is a linear energy corridor configuration, construction of the corridor with the associated excavation for pipeline placement exposes the topsoil surface to potential entrance of exotic and/or invasive species. This can occur either by physical transport onto the exposed soil site by way of machinery or vehicles or through windborne dissemination of seeds of the exotic or invasive species from the surrounding area. To avoid and minimize the potential for the introduction of these seeds to the protect corridor, Texas Gas will apply two exotic and invasive species specific management strategies.

These two strategies for exotic and invasive species control include:

1. Minimization of the introduction of species which were not documented as common endemic species during the environmental surveys conducted along the pipeline route. This strategy is achieved through pressure-washing all construction equipment before it is brought to the construction area for the first time. This should remove any potential seeds or plant parts of the exotic or invasive species from the equipment to prevent this as a mechanism by which the undesirable species could be transported onto the construction site. As a part of this process, all water and material that is captured from the pressure washings will be contained at the pressure washing site and will be disposed of properly to prevent potential dispersal of this material.

2. In addition to the pressure washing of equipment described above, a second strategy to be used in this plan involves the monitoring and selective spot

treatment / eradication of any exotic or invasive species encountered during construction. Texas Gas proposes to monitor the right-of-way for the first 3 to 5 years during normal pipeline monitoring activities to allow for early detection of exotic or invasive species infestations or outbreaks. If species or colonies of exotic or invasive species are found in numbers that are substantially different from those of existing nearby off right-of-way locations, Texas Gas will conduct selective spot eradications of those species. This control measure could include herbicide application, or hand cutting to achieve effective removal of the species.

In addition to the above two strategies to prevent exotic and invasive species encroachment onto the right-of-way, the following control measures will be used to further minimize introduction and/or spread of these species:

- Adherence to FERC's Plan and Procedures to assure that sediment movement and the associated movement of non-native seeds into newly disturbed soils are minimized.
- Use construction techniques along the pipeline route that minimize the time that bare soil is exposed and, therefore, minimize the opportunity for exotic species to become established.
- In wetland construction areas where practicable, remove topsoil from the excavation areas and store it to the side for replacement once the construction is complete. This will minimize the introduction of non-native species and maintain the native plant seed bank.
- Sow a cover crop along all exposed soil surfaces within a short time to assure that a suitable growing substrate for exotic or invasive species is not available for long periods of time.