

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 2
Colorado Interstate Gas Company
Docket No. CP07-207-000

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline facilities (referred to as the High Plains Expansion Project or Project) as proposed by Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG).

The final EIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff concludes that approval of the High Plains Expansion Project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The final EIS evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives, and pipeline alternatives.

The purpose of the High Plains Expansion Project is to provide the facilities necessary to meet growing demand for natural gas in the Front Range of Colorado. CIG's proposed facilities would add 899,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of natural gas transportation capacity to its system to meet the transportation requirements of Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC) and Coral Energy Resources, L.P. who have requested 874,000 Dth/d and 25,000 Dth/d of natural gas transportation service, respectively.

The final EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Colorado:

- 64.5 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline and 20.5 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Weld and Adams Counties (Line 250A);
- 58 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Adams, Weld, and Morgan Counties (Line 251A);
- 14.9 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Weld County (Line 252A);
- 6.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Adams County (Line 253A); and
- ten new meter stations, 19 new main line valves (MLV), and 12 pig launcher/receiver¹ facilities in Weld, Adams, and Morgan Counties.

¹ A pig is an internal tool that can be used to clean and dry a pipeline and/or to inspect it for damage or corrosion.

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 and Files Maintenance Branch
888 First Street, N.E., Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference identified above. In addition, CD copies of the final 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 this final EIS have also been mailed to those who requested that format during scoping and comment periods for the Project.

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 website (<http://www.ferc.gov>).

To access information via the FERC website 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. 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 at (202) 502-8659.

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Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary