

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Ruby Pipeline Project

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Ruby Pipeline, L.L.C. The Ruby Pipeline Project has been proposed to provide a reliable means of natural gas transportation service from suppliers in the Rocky Mountain region to consumers in Nevada and the West Coast (Washington, Oregon, and northern California). The Ruby facilities would be located in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon and would be capable of transporting up to 1.5 million dekatherms per day of natural gas.

FERC prepared the environmental impact statement to assess the environmental impact associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Ruby facilities, in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Along with scoping comments and agency



Ruby's comprehensive application to the FERC includes studies of many species of wildlife. One is the greater sage-grouse, considered a special status species in all BLM districts that would be crossed by the project.

consultations, FERC's analysis included an independent evaluation of resource impacts.

FERC concluded that construction and operation of the Ruby Pipeline would result in some adverse environmental impacts. However, "most of these would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of Ruby's proposed mitigation measures, additional

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measures and agreements being discussed by Ruby and other agencies related to permitting or conservation agreements, and the additional measures recommended by staff in the EIS."

In addition to FERC authority, cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise regarding environmental resources potentially affected by the proposal, and they participate in the NEPA analysis. The Ruby Project would require permits from cooperating agencies pursuant to right-of-way grants (and/or temporary use or special use permits) for federally administered lands/canals crossed in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon.

Cooperating agencies participating in the development of the DEIS included:

- ◆ U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Fish and Wildlife Service;
- ◆ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- ◆ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- ◆ State of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office; and
- ◆ Board of County Commissioners in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

The DEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the following project facilities:

- ◆ About 675.2 miles of 42-inch-diameter mainline pipeline
- ◆ About 2.6 miles of 42-inch-diameter lateral pipeline
- ◆ One electric-powered compressor station and three natural gas-powered compressor stations (totaling 160,500 horsepower of new compression)

- ◆ Four meter stations containing interconnects to other pipeline systems
- ◆ 44 mainline valves
- ◆ 20 in-line inspection tool ("pig") launchers or receivers
- ◆ Five new communication towers
- ◆ Miscellaneous communications equipment installed at eight existing communication towers

1-866-208-3372. Project information and the DEIS can also be accessed at www.rubypipeline.com ("FERC Information").

Comments on the DEIS can be sent to the FERC, referencing Docket CP09-54-000, both electronically and by mail; however, the FERC encourages electronic filings. The e-filing link is efiling@ferc.gov. For assistance, persons commenting may



Among numerous species studied, the black-footed ferret is a federally listed endangered species and a BLM-sensitive species in Wyoming.

The DEIS covers a vast array of information, including but not limited to: construction and operation of the pipeline; safety issues; environmental, water resource, and geological issues; soils and vegetation; land use and visual impacts; routes and variations; special status species, including the greater sage grouse, the black-footed ferret, and Lahontan trout and numerous other species; air quality and noise; socioeconomic and cultural issues; and archaeological issues; among others.

Information about the Ruby Project is available via the agency's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and also from the FERC's Office of External Affairs at

contact a FERC staff member who is expert on e-filings at (202) 502-8258. Comments by mail should be sent to the FERC by sending an original and two copies of correspondence to:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission
888 First St. NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426



Label one copy for the attention of the Gas Branch 1, PJ-11.1 and reference Docket No. CP09-54-000 on the original and both copies. Comments should be received by FERC by August 10, 2009.

FERC has scheduled a series of public meetings to accept comments. Meetings will begin at 7 p.m., local time, at the following locations.

Public Comment Meeting Schedule

Date	Location
July 21, 2009	Malin Community Hall 2307 Front St. Malin, OR 97623
July 22, 2009	Elks Lodge 323 N. F St. Lakeview, OR 97630
July 23, 2009	Winnemucca Convention Center 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, NV 89445
July 27, 2009	Brigham City Senior Center 24 N 300 W Brigham City, UT 84302
July 28, 2009	Hilton Garden Inn 3650 East Idaho St. Elko, NV 89801
July 29, 2009	Kemmerer Senior Center 105 J.C. Penney Dr. Kemmerer, WY 83101
July 30, 2009	Hyrum Civic Center 83 W. Main St. Hyrum, UT 84319

The DEIS is on file at the following locations:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Public Reference Room
888 First St. NE, Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming State Office
PO Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Kemmerer Field Office
312 Highway 189 N
Kemmerer, WY 83101

Utah State Office
440 West 200 South
Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502

Elko District Office
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801

Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler St.
Cedarville, CA 96104

Oregon State Office
333 SW First Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Lakeview Office
1301 S. G St.
Lakeview, OR 97630

Klamath Falls Office
2795 Anderson Ave., Bldg. #25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

U.S. Forest Service

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
507 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest,
Salt Lake Office, 8256 Federal Building
125 S. State St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Fremont-Winema National Forest
1301 S. G St.
Lakeview, OR 97630

U.S. Forest Service Intermountain
Regional Office
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

After the comments are reviewed, and any new issues that may be deemed significant are investigated, FERC staff and cooperating agencies will prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register and subsequently distributed.

Project Summary and Review



The Ruby Pipeline Project is designed to help meet our nation's growing demand for clean-burning, environmentally friendly natural gas and associated transportation infrastructure. The pipeline's proposed route would run from Opal, Wyoming to Malin, Oregon. Ruby will transport natural gas as an open access, federally regulated, interstate natural gas transmission pipeline. The Ruby Pipeline can help meet energy demand along its entire route with the potential to accommodate the need for natural gas by municipalities, electric generation plants, industrial users, and other end-users. With the exception of the proposed compressor stations, block valve installa-

tions, and meter stations associated with the project, the pipeline will be completely underground. After construction, the land surface will be restored to its previous condition to the maximum extent possible. Once restoration is complete, farming, ranching, and other appropriate uses can resume.

In letters sent to FERC, the governors of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California have each expressed support for FERC's diligent and timely processing of Ruby's certificate application because of the potential economic, fiscal and energy resource benefits to their states.

Project Timeline

1Q 2008

- Began survey work - Civil Survey
- FERC Pre-Filing

2Q 2008

- Initiated environmental & cultural studies

1Q 2009

- Filed FERC Certificate application

2Q 2009

- DEIS issued
- Environmental and cultural surveys nearing completion

4Q 2009 - 1Q 2010

- Proposed BLM record of decision issuance, Final EIS issuance, and FERC certificate issuance

1Q 2010 - 2Q 2010

- Proposed notice to proceed issuance and proposed construction start

1Q 2011

- Pipeline in service

El Paso Corporation Contacts

Please contact the following individuals with any questions or comments you may have on the Ruby Pipeline Project. You may also submit a question to: questions@rubypipeline.com

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