

is located on the Big Cottonwood Creek in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, near the town of Sandy, about 15 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah. The project occupies about 8.7 acres of land within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

On August 16, 1999, the Commission staff issued a draft environmental assessment (DEA) for the project and requested that comments be filed with the Commission within 15 days. Comments on the DEA were filed by one entity and are addressed in the final environmental assessment (FEA) for the project.

The FEA contains the staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the FEA are available for review in the Public Reference Room, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The FEA may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (please call (202) 208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP99-61-000, CP99-62-000, CP99-63-000, CP99-64-000]

TriState Pipeline, L.L.C.; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed TriState Pipeline Project

September 17, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by TriState Pipeline, L.L.C. (TriState) in the above-referenced dockets.

The DEIS was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures as recommended, would have limited adverse environmental impact. The DEIS also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system

alternatives; route alternatives; and minor route variations, and requests comments on them.

The DEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following facilities in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan:

- About 2.8 miles of new 30-inch-diameter interconnect pipeline for the Alliance Interconnect (1.5 miles) and the Northern Border Interconnect (1.3 miles) in Will County, Illinois;
 - About 146.8 miles of new 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan extending from Joliet, Illinois in Will County to White Pigeon, Michigan in St. Joseph County. About 32.6 miles would be in Illinois, 108.0 miles would be in Indiana, and 6.2 miles would be in Michigan;
 - About 66.0 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline looping the existing Consumers Energy Company (Consumers Energy) and Michigan Gas Storage (MGS) systems in Michigan in three segments: the Branch County Loop (24.0 miles), the Oakland County Loop (23.4 miles), and the Macomb County Loop (18.6 miles);
 - About 12.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline from Consumers Energy's existing St. Clair Compressor Station in St. Clair County, Michigan, to the United States (U.S.)-Canadian International Boundary in the St. Clair River;
 - One new compressor station (Joliet Compressor Station) with 30,000 horsepower (hp) in Joliet, Illinois and upgrade Consumers Energy's existing St. Clair Compressor Station with 18,570 hp of additional compression;
 - Four new meter/regulating stations including two in Will County, Illinois, one in St. Joseph County, Michigan, and one in St. Clair County, Michigan;
 - 23 new mainline and crossover valves; and
 - Lease of 450 thousand decatherms per day (Mdt/d) of firm pipeline capacity on the Consumers Energy and MGS systems between White Pigeon, Michigan and Consumers Energy's existing St. Clair Compressor Station.
- In addition, TriState requests in Docket No. CP99-64-000 a Presidential Permit to construct, operate, and maintain facilities at the International Border between the U.S.-Canadian International Boundary in the St. Clair River near Marine City, Michigan. TriState's border facilities would connect TriState's proposed U.S. facilities with Canadian facilities owned by TriState's Canadian affiliate, TriState-Canada.
- The purpose of the proposed project would be to transport 650 Mdt/d of

natural gas from the Chicago Hub near Joliet, Illinois to points in Michigan and Canada. Of the 650 Mdt/d, 200 Mdt/d would be delivered to Consumers Energy's White Pigeon delivery point in Michigan. The remaining 450 Mdt/d would be transported to the Dawn Hub in Ontario, Canada.

Comment Procedures and Public Meetings

Any person wishing to comment on the DEIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.1;
- Reference Docket No. CP99-61-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before November 8, 1999.

In addition to written comments, we will hold four public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the DEIS. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., and are scheduled as follows:

October 20, 1999—University Park, Illinois, Engbretson Hall, Governors State University, Governors Highway and Stuenkel Rd., (708) 534-4515.

October 21, 1999—Walkerton, Indiana, Urey Middle School Cafeteria, 407 Washington Street, (219) 586-3184.

October 20, 1999—Pontiac, Michigan, Pontiac Northern High School, Little Theater (S. Parking Lot), 1051 Arlene Avenue, (248) 857-8460.

October 21, 1999—Sturgis, Michigan, Sturgis Young Civic Center, 201 N. Nottawa, (800) 778-7437.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend and present oral comments on the environmental impact described in the DEIS. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared.

After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the DEIS, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be published and distributed by the staff. The FEIS will contain the staff's responses to timely comments filed on the DEIS.

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 DEIS. You must file your request to intervene as specified above. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

The DEIS 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, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

A limited number of copies are available from the Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch identified above. In addition, copies of the DEIS have been mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, individuals who have requested the DEIS, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-599-000]

Paiute Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Carson Lateral Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Site Visit

September 17, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Carson Lateral Project, involving the abandonment, construction, and operation of facilities by Paiute Pipeline Company (Paiute) in Storey, Lyon, and Douglas Counties, Nevada.¹ The facilities proposed for construction would consist of a total of about 9.7 miles of various diameter pipeline. The EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, you may be contacted by a pipeline company representative about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The pipeline company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the project is approved by the Commission, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in accordance with state law. A fact sheet addressing a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain, is attached to this notice as appendix 1.²

Summary of the Proposed Project

Paiute wants to increase system reliability by replacing a deteriorating segment of pipeline along its Carson Lateral, and to expand the capacity of its facilities by looping³ portions of its

¹ Paiute's application was filed with the Commission on August 11, 1999, under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

³ A loop is a segment of pipeline that is installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to

Carson Lateral and South Tahoe Lateral. The project would allow Paiute to transport an additional 10,800 decatherms per day of natural gas to meet future growth demands of its shippers. Paiute seeks authority to:

- Abandon in place 5.5 miles of existing 10.75-inch-diameter pipeline between milepost (MP) 31.85 and MP 37.34 on its Carson Lateral in Lyon County, Nevada;
- construct and operate 5.5 miles of 20-inch-diameter replacement pipeline between MP 31.85 and MP 37.34 on its Carson Lateral, adjacent to U.S. Highway 50, in Lyon County, Nevada (Highway 50 Replacement);
- construct and operate 2.3 miles of 20-inch-diameter loop between MP 2.95 and MP 5.25 on its Carson Lateral near Fernley, in Storey and Lyon Counties, Nevada (Fernley Loop); and
- construct and operate 1.9 miles of 12.75-inch-diameter loop between MP 14.28 and MP 16.18 on its South Tahoe Lateral, adjacent to U.S. Highway 395, in Douglas County, Nevada (Highway 395 Loop).

The locations of these proposed facilities are shown in appendix 2.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 117.5 acres of land. Following construction, about 61.0 acres would be retained as permanent right-of-way. The remaining 56.5 acres of temporary work space would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us⁴ to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent (NOI), the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA.

State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment

it on both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through the pipeline system.

⁴ "Us," "we," and "our" refer to the environment staff of the FERC's Office of Pipeline Regulation.