

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number
KANDA LATERAL AND MAINLINE : PF06-15-000
EXPANSION PROJECT :
- - - - -x

Holiday Inn
1675 Sunset Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming

Monday, April 24, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:05 p.m.

MODERATOR: DAVID M. GALLO, FERC

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (7:05 p.m.)

3 MR. GALLO: Good evening. My name is Dave Gallo,
4 and I'm the environmental project manager in the Office of
5 Energy Projects for the Federal Energy Regulatory
6 Commission. I would like to welcome all of you here this
7 evening.

8 The Commission is responsible for authorizing the
9 construction and operation of interstate natural gas
10 pipeline facilities. It issues certificates of public
11 convenience and necessity for these facilities to be
12 constructed under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act. Because
13 the Wyoming Interstate Companies, or WIC, project requires
14 federal approval from the Commission and other federal
15 agencies, an environmental review of the project is required
16 under the National Environment Policy Act, or NEPA.

17 To company with NEPA, the Commission will be
18 preparing an environmental analysis document for this
19 proposal. As such, the purpose of tonight's meeting is to
20 get your comments on what issues need to be considered in
21 our NEPA document for WIC's planned Canda lateral and
22 mainline expansion project. The NEPA document will address
23 all issues identified during this scoping process.

24 Here with me tonight is Mark Mackiewicz. He's
25 the national project manager for the Bureau of Land

1 Management, BLM. The BLM will be cooperating in the
2 preparation of the environmental document. Representing WIC
3 is John German, the principal engineer.

4 At this point, I would like to turn it over to
5 Mark, who will speak to you about BLM's involvement with the
6 project. Mark.

7 MR. MACKIEWICZ: Good evening. Again, my name is
8 Mark Mackiewicz. I'm the national project manager with the
9 Washington, D.C. office of the Bureau of Land Management.
10 The Bureau of Land Management is the lead federal agency
11 that has the responsibility of issuing rights-of-ways across
12 all federal lands that this pipeline crosses or would cross.
13 This includes lands managed by our Wyoming office here in
14 Rock Springs, the Rock Springs field office, as well as an
15 office in Vernal, Utah, the Vernal field office.

16 As David mentioned, we are a cooperating agency
17 in the preparation of this environmental assessment that
18 will be written to analyze the potential environmental
19 impacts from the construction of this 20- to 30-inch natural
20 gas pipeline. We will utilize this document to support our
21 decision whether to either approve or disapprove the right-
22 of-way grant.

23 Also, in order to accommodate one alternative for
24 the proposed pipeline in Wyoming, there is an exclusion area
25 called the Red Creek area of critical environmental concern.

1 We will analyze a plan amendment here in this environmental
2 document. The potential environmental impacts of this plan
3 amendment will be analyzed in total in this document. When
4 the comment period is open, if there are specific comments
5 regarding this proposed plan amendment, there are staff from
6 the Rock Springs field office that can help us answer those
7 questions.

8 Again, as David mentioned, we're here to listen
9 to you tonight. However, in order to assist us in this
10 endeavor, we need specific comments regarding issues you
11 feel that should be addressed in this environmental
12 document, possible alternatives and mitigation measures or
13 ways that you feel can be proposed in this project to lessen
14 the potential impacts.

15 Thank you. I'll entertain questions later about
16 the process.

17 MR. GALLO: Thanks, Mark.

18 You may have noticed we have a court reporter
19 here recording the meeting. A record is being made of
20 everything that is said here this evening during the scoping
21 meeting. A transcript will be placed on Fern's website in
22 our E-Library system. If you would like to purchase a copy
23 of the transcript, please see the court reporter after the
24 meeting.

25 We will now turn our attention to the project

1 itself, the FERC process, and your comments. Let me now
2 turn it over to WIC to let them describe their project to
3 you. John?

4 MR. GERMAN: The purpose of this project is to
5 transport natural gas from the Unite Basin up to basically a
6 hub up in Canda, right outside of town here. Currently we
7 have contracts to transport between 250,000 -- I'm sorry,
8 250 million and 350 million cubic feet a day on this
9 pipeline. The pipeline will be a minimum of 20-inch in
10 diameter. Right now we expect it's going to be a 24-inch in
11 diameter at least up to Clay Basin and then possible a 30-
12 inch from Clay Basin to Canda.

13 The pipeline starts in Unite County, goes through
14 Baggett County, Utah, and then into Sweetwater County,
15 Wyoming. As I say, the pipeline is 128 miles. Depending on
16 which alternative route that we take, the pipeline pretty
17 much parallels an existing corridor for most of the way --
18 there's a Questa/Mapco corridor that we're attempting to
19 follow -- until we get into Wyoming, and then in Wyoming we
20 have two alternative routes that we're looking at in
21 addition to our preferred route. One is an alternative out
22 to the west, it adds about 12-1/2 miles to the line, and
23 then there's a little shorter alternative that adds about 2-
24 1/2 miles to the line.

25 The pipeline crosses the Green River twice. Both

1 those crossings we're hoping to do by the directional drill
2 method, and that's still subject to a soil analysis. Right
3 now we're having bores done at those rivers to make sure
4 that's feasible.

5 The pipeline will be set up for pigging, so that
6 we can run intelligent inspection tools through the pipeline
7 while it's in service, so there'll be what we call pig traps
8 at the beginning and end of the line and also at a mid-point
9 at Clay Basin.

10 The pipeline is right now scheduled to tie in to
11 Questa's Clay Basin storage. It'll also tie in to Northwest
12 pipeline and then up at Canda it'll tie in to -- Colorado
13 Interstate has two pipelines, it'll tie in to those, it'll
14 tie into the over thrust pipeline, and then it'll also tie
15 into Questa's pipeline there.

16 And so that's basically the project. If there's
17 any questions -- or do you want to take questions later?

18 MR. GALLO: Later.

19 MR. GERMAN: Okay. We'll take questions later.

20 MR. GALLO: Thanks, John.

21 WIC has held three open houses in the project
22 area, and on February 8th, 2006, the FERC Staff began the
23 prefiling process to facilitate earlier involvement of the
24 affected stakeholders, which include all of you present
25 here. Many of you have received the Notice of Intent. This

1 project is still in the design state; specific details have
2 not yet been finalized. A formal application has not yet
3 been filed with the Commission. The goal of the pre-filing
4 process is to help facilitate the interaction of federal,
5 state, local agencies, and affected property owners and
6 other interested stakeholders by preparing a more complete
7 application for the filing of WIC's application. We would
8 like to know now what the issues are so we can address them
9 now, rather than after the application is filed.

10 I also want to state that FERC is an advocate of
11 the pre-filing process, not an advocate of the project. We
12 are still very early in the process and there will be
13 several opportunities to comment on the project as
14 information is made available. More information will be
15 made available on the FERC website as WIC further develops
16 its project and updates its project information. Documents
17 that are filed on the project will be posted on the website,
18 including any written comments that are filed by you.
19 Instructions on how to access the FERC website are addressed
20 in the Notice of Intent. The notice also contains
21 instructions on filing written comments, if you prefer to
22 comment in that manner. There are a few extra copies of the
23 notice on the table.

24 We also provided another handout, which is a
25 colored flowchart that was on the sign-in table and which

1 was attached to the prefiling review that was mailed out
2 last month. At this time, if you have a copy of this, we
3 can take a look at it and we can show you where we currently
4 are with it.

5 On the left side, is the Federal Energy
6 Regulatory Commission's actions where we've received the
7 requests to conduct a review in the prefiling process. We
8 approved the prefiling process and issued it at PF docket.
9 We participated in the sponsored workshops and we issued the
10 Notice of Intent. We consulted with interested agencies,
11 which is where we're at at this point.

12 And, as you can see on the applicant's side,
13 they've studied the potential alternatives, identified the
14 stakeholders, requested the prefiling process, sponsored
15 their open houses, they're conducting surveys and refining
16 the route -- which is where we're currently at in the
17 process.

18 Okay. Let me now discuss what is required of WIC
19 when it files its application, which in part is to assist
20 the Commission in meeting its NEPA responsibilities.

21 When WIC files its application, it will file
22 several environmental resource reports based on its
23 environmental and engineering survey results. The resource
24 reports cover geology, soils, vegetation and wildlife,
25 including federally listed species, land use, recreation,

1 cultural resources, reliability and safety, air and noise
2 quality, and alternatives.

3 To meet the application filing requirements, WIC
4 will also study several route variations or alternatives.
5 Those alternatives and others developed during this
6 prefiling process will be evaluated and we will consider all
7 reasonable alternatives in our analysis. Identified
8 alternatives will be weighed against a corresponding segment
9 of the proposed route for certain environmental factors such
10 as the overall length, the percentage of the alternatives
11 that parallel existing utility corridors, and the amount of
12 streams and wetlands crossed.

13 When WIC files its application, FERC and the BLM
14 staff will complete the NEPA document and sent it out for
15 public review and comment. The document will disclose our
16 independent analysis based on what is filed in the
17 environmental proceedings for this proposal. The document
18 will also include any mitigation or recommendations needed
19 to reduce impacts as appropriate.

20 The public will have at least 30 days to provide
21 written comments.

22 Comments received during the comment period will be
23 addressed in any Commission action which will be put to the
24 Commission for a vote of whether to approve or deny the
25 project.

1 My understanding here is that those who have
2 signed in do not want to speak. Is that correct? Anybody
3 want to say anything?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. GALLO: No?

6 All right. Well, in that case, we can open it up
7 for any questions that you may have for WIC or Mark and I on
8 the process.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. GALLO: Nothing at all?

11 Okay. Then let the record show that the meeting
12 has concluded at 7:20.

13 (Whereupon, at 7:20 p.m., the scoping meeting was
14 concluded.)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25