

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Date: August 28, 2007

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Case: In Re: High Plains Expansion Project

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATION COMMISSION

Colorado Interstate Gas Company

Docket No C07-207-000

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING REGARDING
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR PROPOSED HIGH PLAINS EXPANSION PROJECT

The public meeting regarding Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Comment Meeting for the Proposed High Plains Expansion Project was held at the Regency Hotel, 701 8th Street, Greeley, Colorado 80631 on August 28, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., before Debbie Zoetewey, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public within Colorado.

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATION COMMISSION:

Jennifer Kerrigan

FOR MERJENT:

John Muehlhausen

Jeff Mackenthun

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

2 * * * * *

3 MS. KERRIGAN: We're going to start the
4 meeting now. Good evening and welcome to the
5 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement, or DEIS, comment
7 meeting for the High Plains Expansion Project,
8 which is a natural gas pipeline construction
9 project proposed by Colorado Interstate Gas
10 Company, or CIG.

11 My name is Jennifer Kerrigan, and I'm the
12 FERC project manager. Also with me here at this
13 time are John Muehlhausen on my right and Jeff
14 Mackenthun, who is at the speaker sign-in table.
15 They are both from our third-party contractor,
16 Merjent, and they are assisting the FERC staff in
17 preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

18 CIG filed the certificate application for
19 this project with the Federal Energy Regulation
20 Commission on April 27, 2007, at which time it was
21 assigned Docket No. CP07-207-000. However, scoping
22 the issue related to construction and operation of
23 this project began earlier during our prefiling
24 process after we issued a notice of intent to
25 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and

1 request for comments on November 17, 2006.

2 On August 10, 2007, we issued the notice
3 of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact
4 Statement, or DEIS, which informed that the comment
5 period for the DEIS has begun and that it would end
6 on October 1, 2007.

7 Tonight we are providing you with an
8 opportunity to comment on the DEIS that was
9 prepared for the High Plains Expansion Project. We
10 are here to listen to your comments.

11 In the DEIS we addressed the
12 environmental issues related to the construction
13 and operation of the proposed project and the
14 comments that were made part of the public record
15 for this proceeding during scoping.

16 If you have any comments about the
17 information in the DEIS, we want to hear from you
18 so that we can prepare as accurately as possible a
19 final Environmental Impact Statement, and we
20 appreciate your comments because they can assist us
21 in doing this.

22 All of the comments that you present
23 tonight and any written comments that you may file
24 with the Commission will be given equal
25 consideration and will be addressed in writing in

1 the final Environmental Impact Statement.

2 The final Environmental Impact Statement
3 will be part of the information that the Commission
4 will use in examining CIG's application for the
5 High Plains Expansion Project.

6 In addition to environmental issues, the
7 Commission will consider issues related to gas
8 transportation rates and tariffs, engineer design,
9 and need for the project. The Commission will make
10 its decision about the project sometime after the
11 final Environmental Impact Statement is issued.

12 As a reminder, all comments on the DEIS
13 should be filed with the secretary of the
14 Commission by October 1, 2007, so they can be
15 addressed in the final Environmental Impact
16 Statement that will be issued this winter.

17 As you may have noticed, we have a court
18 reporter here to report the transcript of this
19 comment meeting. If you wish to obtain copies of
20 the transcript, please speak with the court
21 reporter after the meeting concludes.

22 Also, if you have any written material
23 that you would like to make part of the public
24 record, please give it to the court reporter and it
25 will be attached as an exhibit to the transcript.

1 Now, for explanation of how we'll proceed
2 with the comment meeting here tonight, we will call
3 speakers in the order in which they signed up on
4 the sign-up sheets. And it is helpful for the
5 court reporter when you begin speaking if you could
6 say your name and spell it so that we get an
7 accurate -- get the record accurately for the
8 transcript.

9 So that being said, we can proceed now to
10 the speakers that have signed up. And my first
11 speaker that I have is Dennis Hoshiko. And the
12 microphone is on this chair; just to prevent it
13 from falling to the ground, it's sitting on the
14 chair there.

15 MR. HOSHIKO: Good evening. You wanted
16 the spelling of my name. I'm sorry. Great.

17 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: We have it.

18 MR. HOSHIKO: I guess the overriding
19 concern that I have about this project is that why
20 weren't more people -- we have quite a few chairs
21 set up; and I spoke with several of my neighbors
22 who have indicated that they got no notice of this
23 meeting, so I'm wondering why that's the case and
24 why the mailings to inform the affected property
25 owners weren't sent by certified mail so that there

1 would be some indication as to whether they had
2 received notice or not.

3 I don't know whether you can answer any
4 of the questions that I'm presenting or intend to,
5 but that is a significant concern that I have.

6 This pipeline is going to bifurcate a
7 significant amount of very important irrigated
8 agricultural land throughout Weld County, and I
9 guess I haven't seen anything in the documentation
10 that I have received or that indicates why this
11 route was chosen.

12 There's quite a bit of undeveloped
13 prairie land that lies a few miles to the east of
14 the proposed route that, although prairie land is
15 important and environmentally sensitive, I'm
16 curious as to why Colorado Interstate Gas chose
17 this particular route.

18 Nothing that we've received or heard of
19 indicates why this route was chosen above a route
20 that would be much less disruptive that would be
21 further to the east, a lot less not only developed
22 farmland, but also a lot less infrastructure
23 relative to public roadways and utility lines and
24 that type of thing.

25 So is that about it? I get to talk and

1 nobody responds?

2 MS. KERRIGAN: Yeah. We have to address
3 all comments in writing in our environmental
4 document, so that's just the procedure we have to
5 use.

6 MR. HOSHIKO: That would have been nice
7 to know beforehand, too.

8 MS. KERRIGAN: And just to address the
9 mailings, we sent out mailings to everybody that
10 indicated they wanted to be on the mailing list.
11 If they did not indicate they wanted to be on the
12 mailing list, they didn't get copies.

13 MR. HOSHIKO: When did we get an
14 opportunity?

15 MS. KERRIGAN: That was sent out with the
16 notice of intent to prepare the Environmental
17 Impact Statement. There was a mailer on the back
18 of that that you had to fill out with your name and
19 address and send it back to the Commission.

20 And if you didn't -- if people didn't do
21 that, they are not on the mailing list. So
22 everybody that did that, if you look at Appendix A
23 of our environmental document, that list is -- as
24 well as agencies, et cetera, that we usually send
25 these documents to, it lists everybody that

1 indicated that they had an interest in receiving
2 environmental documents, so they got a copy of the
3 DEIS. If they requested a hard copy, they got
4 that. If they requested a CD, they got a CD with
5 it.

6 And also, we sent out a separate mailing
7 with the notice of availability, which we don't
8 usually do. But in the -- just the timing, we had
9 printers and finalizing this room, so we had sent
10 out a notice of where the meeting was going to be,
11 so there ended up actually being two notices.

12 MR. HOSHIKO: Only those that indicated
13 they wished to receive the notice received that?

14 MS. KERRIGAN: That's correct.

15 MR. HOSHIKO: Well, for your information,
16 those of us that own property in this part of Weld
17 County receive notifications of utility crossings,
18 oil and gas drilling operations practically on a
19 weekly basis; and so it comes to a point where they
20 almost become -- almost become oblivious to them.
21 I would assume that might be part of the reason
22 that you didn't get overwhelming response from all
23 of the -- I'm going to guess hundreds, maybe --
24 well, at least hundreds of property owners that are
25 going to be affected by this pipeline.

1 That's the procedure, and they failed to
2 abide by it, evidently; but that's probably the
3 reason you didn't get more of a request for
4 mailings. That's all I have to say.

5 MS. KERRIGAN: Thank you. Next speaker
6 is Elaine Altergott.

7 MS. ALTERGOTT: My name is Elaine
8 Altergott. Do you need me to spell it for you?
9 E-l-a-i-n-e A-l-t-e-r-g-o-t-t. I'm talking about
10 reference to my property, which is in your draft
11 survey on Map 11 of 62. It's No. 2 of Section 10.
12 It's the -- concerning the last third of the
13 Section 10 going north to south.

14 My property is grassland, and which I
15 used to pasture my cows. And this grass is not
16 seeded grass, but rather, it's the original native
17 grass that was here before you and I were here.
18 This pasture and surrounding grass pastures were
19 homesteaded before the town of Greeley was
20 established. They had the choice of all the
21 country, and they picked this grass because of its
22 subirrigation abilities and the quality of the
23 grass.

24 After reading much of your draft
25 Environmental Impact Statement, I discovered you,

1 too, value native grassland. The alternative route
2 that -- the Burroughs route alternative was
3 proposed, which would take a route north and east
4 of the original route suggested by CIG; you have
5 eliminated the Burroughs route as a prospective
6 route largely because it would cross through the
7 Pawnee National Grasslands.

8 You've stated further, and I quote,
9 Grasslands are considered to be one of the most
10 imperiled habitat types in North America and wild.
11 It is eliminated that only -- it is estimated that
12 only about 60 percent of Eastern Plain grasslands
13 remain.

14 So I'm putting the question to you: Why
15 are you putting more value on the Pawnee grasslands
16 and are interested in preserving it as -- in its
17 natural state while at the same time, you're
18 disregarding my native grass and the value of
19 preserving it and keeping it whole? Thank you.

20 MS. KERRIGAN: Thank you. Next speaker
21 is Kevin Russell.

22 (No response.)

23 MS. KERRIGAN: Did we have any more
24 speakers sign up?

25 MR. MACKENTHUN: No.

1 MS. KERRIGAN: That is the last speaker
2 who signed up. If anybody else would like to
3 speak, they can come up to the podium and comment
4 on the report. Just say your name and spell it for
5 the court reporter. Because if nobody else wants
6 to speak, that's pretty much going to be it for the
7 comment meeting. Okay. Got a volunteer.

8 MR. BURROUGHS: I'm Tony Burroughs, and I
9 think -- just wanted to say I agree with what
10 Mr. Hoshiko said and I guess follow up. It was
11 said that if we were in the Appendix A, we got a
12 letter about this meeting. And I'm in Appendix A,
13 but I did not get a letter notifying me of this
14 meeting.

15 MS. KERRIGAN: Same mailing list. It's
16 the exact same. We used the same mailing list for
17 the DEIS, printed the same labels, same process. I
18 don't know why. Sometimes that happens. Things
19 get lost in the mail. It was also in the public
20 records, too, if -- you're an intervenor on this
21 project; right?

22 MR. BURROUGHS: Your response to him was
23 that people would have got notification and not --
24 things get lost in the mail, but --

25 MS. KERRIGAN: Well, they were mailed

1 out. That's the way the notifications is done.
2 It's put into the mail.

3 MR. BURROUGHS: He may be correct in
4 stating that some people did not get a letter.

5 MS. KERRIGAN: It's possible. That
6 happens. That happens all the time. Sometimes
7 things get damaged, sometimes we get return damaged
8 documents and have to mail them out again. It's
9 possible. Anything is possible. Thank you.

10 Anybody else like to comment? Well, with
11 that, I'm going to close the comment meeting. But
12 we still have this room; if you want to come up and
13 talk to us privately, CIG is here, you can talk to
14 them. They have got their alignment sheets out if
15 you want to talk about your properties or other
16 issues.

17 So off the record. We're here and we can
18 accommodate that. With that, we're closing the
19 comment meeting. Thank you very much for coming.

20 (The proceedings were adjourned at the
21 approximate hour of 6:54 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF COLORADO)
3) ss.
4 COUNTY OF ADAMS)

5 I, DEBBIE ZOETEWY, Registered Merit
6 Reporter and Notary Public, State of Colorado, do
7 hereby certify that the said proceedings were taken
8 in machine shorthand by me at the time and place
9 set forth above, and were reduced to typewritten
10 form; that the foregoing is a true transcript of
11 the proceedings had.

12 I further certify that I am not employed
13 by, related to, nor counsel for any of the parties
14 herein, nor otherwise interested in the outcome of
15 this litigation.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my
17 signature this 4th day of September, 2007.

18 My commission expires August 28, 2008.

19
20 _____
21 Debbie Zoetewey
22 Registered Merit Reporter
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