

1 BEFORE THE
2 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

3
4
5
6 Raton 2010 Expansion Project
7 Docket No. PF 08-25-000

8
9
10
11
12
13 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
14 Walsenburg, Colorado
15 September 8, 2008

16
17
18
19
20 The Public Scoping Meeting was held at the
21 Huerfano County Community Center, 928 Russell
22 Avenue, Walsenburg, Colorado, commencing at 7:06
23 p.m., and was reported by Craig Knowles, CM, CSR.

24

1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 MS. MANCO: All right. Can you all hear
3 me okay? We didn't have any mics up here,
4 unfortunately. Let me know if you can't hear me.

5 Good evening. On behalf of the Federal
6 Energy Regulatory Commission, also referred to as
7 FERC, or the Commission, I would like to welcome
8 you all tonight. This is a scoping meeting for
9 Colorado Interstate Gas, or CIG, Raton 2010
10 Expansion project

11 Let the record show that the public
12 scoping meeting in Walsenburg, Colorado, began at
13 7:06 on September 8, 2008.

14 I'm Maggie Manco, and I'm the FERC project
15 manager for this project. With me outside at the
16 sign-in desk is Joanne Wachholder, also with
17 FERC, helping to evaluate the project.

18 The FERC is an independent federal agency
19 that regulates interstate transmission of
20 electricity, natural gas and oil. FERC reviews
21 proposals and authorizes construction of
22 interstate natural gas pipeline, storage
23 facilities and liquefied natural gas, or LNG
24 terminals, as well as licensing and inspection of
25 hydroelectric projects.

1 The purpose of the commission is to
2 protect the public and energy customers, ensuring
3 that regulated energy companies are acting within
4 the law.

5 We are located in Washington, D.C., just
6 north of the United States Capitol. FERC has up
7 to five commissioners who are appointed by the
8 President of the United States with the advice
9 and consent of the Senate. Each of those have an
10 equal vote on any regulatory matters. FERC has
11 approximately 1200 staff employees, including
12 myself.

13 FERC is also the lead federal agency
14 responsible for the National Environmental Policy
15 Act of 1969, or NEPA, review of all projects and
16 the lead agency for preparation of the EIEA.

17 NEPA requires FERC to analyze the
18 environmental impact and consider alternatives
19 and provide appropriate mitigation measures for
20 proposed projects.

21 On August 27, 2008, FERC issued a Notice
22 of Intent, or NOI, looks something like this you
23 should have gotten in the mail, and it was to
24 prepare an environmental assessment for this
25 project.

1 With the NOI we are requesting comments on
2 the proposed project. We are also inviting
3 agencies to be cooperating agencies in
4 preparation of our document.

5 Regarding our process, we are in the
6 middle of what is called the prefilings
7 environmental review of this project. The
8 purpose of prefilings is to encourage the early
9 involvement of any stakeholders, the public,
10 government agencies, anybody involved in the area
11 to identify and resolve any environmental
12 problems as early as we possibly can.

13 A formal application has not been filed
14 for this project. However, we have begun
15 reviewing the project based on preliminary
16 information.

17 During our review we will assemble
18 information from a variety of sources, including
19 the company, yourself, other state, local and
20 federal agencies, and our own independent
21 analysis and field work.

22 We will analyze the information and
23 prepare the, environmental assessment, or EA,
24 that will be distributed to the public for
25 comment.

1 If you want a copy of this EA either in
2 paper or CD format there are three ways to let us
3 know. You can send us a written request to the
4 FERC. You can sign up at the sign in table
5 outside. Or you can return the mailing list
6 retention form that was in the back of the NOI
7 that was mailed out. Looks like this. And any
8 of those will keep you on our mailing list, and
9 you will receive a copy of the environmental
10 assessment.

11 You must do one of those three things in
12 order to stay on our mailing list. If you do not
13 let us know that you want to stay on, we will
14 take you off and you will not receive any further
15 information about this project from us.

16 If you have previously submitted comments
17 or returned this mailer, you are already retained
18 on our mailing list, and you do not need to
19 resubmit any additional information.

20 This is a public scoping meeting. The
21 purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide each
22 of you the opportunity to give us your comments.
23 We are here to learn from you and to gain
24 information from the project and your properties
25 and any other environmental matters.

1 It will help if you keep your comments as
2 specific as possible regarding the potential
3 environmental impact, reasonable alternative or
4 any other information you have for the proposed
5 project.

6 The issues generally focus on the
7 potential for environmental effects, but may also
8 address construction issues, mitigation, and the
9 environmental review process altogether. Your
10 comments will be used to determine what issues we
11 need to evaluate and cover in our environmental
12 document.

13 Issuance of this NOI opened our formal
14 comment period. The mailing list for this
15 project is large and undergoing constant
16 revision. So if you do not receive a notice, I
17 do apologize and we do have some extra copies
18 outside for you as well.

19 The comment periods ends on September 26,
20 2008. We encourage you to submit your comments
21 as early as possible in order to give us time to
22 evaluate them and gather any additional
23 information and analyze the issues.

24 I would like to add that we strongly
25 encourage electronic filing of comments.

1 Instructions can be located on our Web site at
2 www.ferc.gov under the E filing link. There is
3 also a brochure outside with a whole bunch of
4 information on how to gather information on the
5 project and submit information on the project
6 electronically.

7 If you prefer to submit written comments,
8 please follow the directions in the NOI, or there
9 is another sheet outside for submitting written
10 comments.

11 We have a hand-out at the sign-in table
12 that explains the environmental process in more
13 detail. It was also included in the NOI. There
14 was a flow chart in the back, and it has all the
15 public input opportunity that you will have for
16 this project.

17 It is very important that any comments you
18 submit about this project include our internal
19 docket number for the project. The docket number
20 is in the Notice of Intent and included at the
21 hand-out at the sign-in table. If you decide to
22 send us a comment letter at a later point in
23 time, please make sure it includes that number.
24 That way it will ensure I and members of my staff
25 will receive your comments.

1 The docket number for this project right
2 now is PF 08-25. This will change when the
3 company files a formal application with FERC. It
4 will become a CP 09 dash something something. It
5 will show up when they first submit it. It will
6 show up in both the prefiling docket and the new
7 docket.

8 The EA will be mailed to people who
9 request to stay on our mailing list. After it is
10 issued you will have at least 30 days to review
11 and comment on it. At the end of the comment
12 period any new comments we have received and any
13 new information we have gathered will be used by
14 the FERC commissioners to assist in their
15 determination of whether to approve or deny a
16 certificate for the project.

17 I would like to point out there are a
18 bunch of CIG representatives here and they have
19 brought maps of the pipeline route. You can talk
20 to them and look at maps in the back of the room
21 afterwards. I've asked them to make sure they
22 keep it open. FERC staff will also be available
23 to answer any questions you have after the close
24 of the meeting.

25 Before we start taking comments I've asked

1 CIG to give a brief overview of the project so we
2 all know what is kind of going on. Mr. Chauncey
3 Boese has agreed to do that for us, so I'm going
4 to turn that over to him.

5 MR. BOESE: My name is Chauncey Boese, I'm
6 a project manager with Colorado State Gas,
7 project manager for the project we are discussing
8 today. Colorado Interstate Gas is a subsidiary
9 of El Paso Energy.

10 Colorado Interstate Gas is the pipeline
11 company we operate in this area. The purpose for
12 the project is to increase the gas, increase the
13 outflow of the gas being produced in the Raton
14 Basin.

15 Currently CIG takes about four hundred
16 million cubic feet a day out of the basin and
17 it's about at maximum capacity so this expansion
18 will provide another 130 million cubic feet a day
19 capacity coming out of the basin.

20 This is kind of an overview map of the
21 project. It is a, 118 miles of new 16-inch pipe,
22 steel. It starts at an existing facility of ours
23 called Wet Canyon Meter Station about a mile and
24 a half north of Weston, Colorado. It follows a
25 route that takes it northeast through the hilly

1 country. It crosses I-25 near Aguilar, Colorado.

2 From that point it continues northeast
3 towards Pueblo and crosses the Arkansas river and
4 Highway 50 east of Pueblo near the town of
5 Avondale.

6 From that point it turns more northerly,
7 or northwesterly, and parallels our existing line
8 another 30 miles and connects into the south end
9 of our 212 line where it connects into our system
10 that is already in place.

11 The project includes one new receipt meter
12 station on the south end to take gas from
13 Pioneer. It also includes one new check meter
14 station which will be located about a mile east
15 of Aguilar. And there will also be another, at
16 the north end there will be another big launcher
17 installed at one of our existing facilities.

18 The schedule we are on right now, as
19 Maggie said, we are in the prefiling stage with
20 FERC. We are looking to file the application
21 with FERC, this should say first quarter of 2010.
22 And we are anticipating starting construction
23 November of 2009 with an in service date of May,
24 2010 and have all the cleanup and reseeding
25 finished by late June, early July of 2010.

1 That's it.

2 MS. MANCO: Thank you.

3 We are now going to begin the important
4 part of the meeting where we take your comments.
5 You will notice we have a court reporter up at
6 the front. This is to ensure that we get an
7 accurate record of all of your comments received
8 tonight so we can make sure we analyze them and
9 evaluate anything we need to.

10 When I call your name please come up and
11 say your name clearly for the court reporter so
12 he can make sure he gets it. If you need to
13 spell, go ahead and spell.

14 I only have one speaker so far. What I'll
15 do is, after the first speaker comes up I will
16 then open it to anybody who has additional
17 questions can also come up and speak. It has to
18 be one at a time, and you must come up here so
19 the court reporter can get everything everyone is
20 saying.

21 I will try to answer any questions that I
22 can. Just remember, as we mentioned with the
23 prefiling process, it is very early on so we
24 don't have a ton of information about the project
25 yet. But we can look into it as much as we are

1 able to. And I will answer anything related to
2 FERC's process or any questions you have. And
3 like I said, will also be available at the close
4 of the meeting.

5 So with that the first speaker I have is
6 Lewis Tennis.

7 MR. TENNIS: My name is Lewis Tennis.

8 The question that I had is, these pipeline
9 right of ways as I understand are usually
10 purchased on a one-time payment deal. I don't
11 think anybody is really willing to, shall we say,
12 sell or let go of their property.

13 I would propose that leasing be
14 considered, with an annual payment of some type,
15 instead. This might be a lot more agreeable to a
16 lot of us, depending upon what the payment is.

17 And another question I have I did not list
18 is, who follows up after this pipeline goes in to
19 check on such things as noxious weeds, erosion
20 control, whether the reclamation and the grasses
21 need to be reseeded or not. What is the status
22 on that?

23 MS. MANCO: I can definitely answer your
24 second question here, and you will get more
25 information with our environmental document.

1 FERC will be in charge while the project
2 is being constructed. We will be doing
3 inspections.

4 THE WITNESS: By "we"?

5 MS. MANCO: FERC staff and/or a contractor
6 of FERC will go out to evaluate the project and
7 inspect the construction and restoration. Once
8 they are done, we come back for two or three
9 years, don't quote me on the number yet, to
10 ensure that everything grows back the way it was
11 before. That includes erosion control, noxious
12 weeds, reclamation of grasses, all that stuff you
13 talked about, they come back.

14 We also have a hot line that you can call
15 if something wasn't done to your satisfaction or
16 wasn't done the way it was supposed to be, we
17 have a hot line you can call any time afterwards
18 to ensure.

19 Operation of the pipeline. Once it goes
20 into operation it goes under the Department of
21 Transportation's authority for safety purposes,
22 but we are still in charge of the reclamation
23 portion of it.

24 And they also will have an erosion and
25 sediment control plan. Whether they are going to

1 use FERC's plan or an equivalent, I don't know
2 yet. That we will see when they file their
3 application. But that will be made available for
4 you to see so you can see what they are planning
5 to do as far as erosion control, weeds and
6 reclamation. You will be able to see that in our
7 environmental document.

8 THE WITNESS: When that comes out. How
9 detailed is that as far as individual property
10 owners?

11 MS. MANCO: It's not going to be detailed
12 to an individual property owner. Usually, it's
13 based by land use category type and/or types of
14 areas, wetlands versus upland areas, et cetera.

15 But you will see, if you follow the
16 project, when they file an application they will
17 file a copy of that plan. That will be before we
18 submit our environmental document.

19 At that point, if you have concerns with
20 the plan at that point, submit comments on what
21 parts of that plan you are dissatisfied with and
22 we can look at it at this point and see what can
23 be done relative to your particular property.

24 Does that answer your question?

25 MR. TENNIS: Yeah, I guess so. Okay,

1 thank you.

2 MS. MANCO: As I said, he was our only
3 speaker. If anybody else has any additional
4 questions and wants to come up, I just ask you
5 make sure you state your name clearly. Do you
6 have any questions about our process?

7 All right, then. Well, without anymore
8 speakers, the formal part of this meeting will
9 conclude.

10 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
11 Commission I would like to thank you all for
12 coming tonight.

13 Let the record show that the CIG Raton
14 2010 Expansion Project Public Scoping Meeting in
15 Walsenburg, Colorado, concluded at 7:22 p.m.

16 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at
17 7:22 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24